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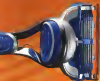
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The Swelling Our morning digest gives you a rundown of what's making news across the country www.macleans.ca/swelling
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'I always open the magazine
to The End first. You should have
more stories about ordinary people.
It makes for a special connection.'



APPLIED Science is in her hair: Cheryl Tacher, 40, says she should support our authors.

Up is not a film I will be viewing and I hope that other Canadians follow suit in boycotting it.

Cheryl Tacher, Guelph, Ont.

ORDINARY PEOPLE

I JUST WANTED to convey how much I appreciate the last page of *Blackwell's*. I always open the magazine to The End first and read the story of some ordinary person who has hit the dust. You should have more stories about ordinary people. It makes for a special connection—something we readers can relate to. Oh, by the way, the rest of the magazine is okay too.

Nancy Rossmore-Chen, Wayne, Pa.

CSI AND HISTORY

IN AN ARTICLE on Canada's cable channel History TV, Justin J. Weisman writes, "When specialty channels violate the terms under which they were licensed, the regulators are supposed to be able to revoke and fine it" ("It's as unimpeachable as it's hypocritical," TV, June 11). This statement suggests that Alliance Atlantis is violating the conditions of its license for History Television by making CSI: NY. The History Television conditions of license require the channel to air programs which "examine both current events and past history," and also that the channel and its associated agencies, "We believe that CSI: NY fits within that definition. As such, we believe History Television is within its license conditions in airing the show. As

is appropriate, we are addressing the issue with the CRTC. On May 31, we filed a formal letter with the CRTC clearly outlining why we believe that CSI: NY does fit History Television's nature of service. We have requested reconsideration by CRTC staff of its determination that CSI: NY wasn't historical in light of the additional information that we provided.

John Gill, Senior Vice-President, Domestic Content, Alliance Atlantis Communications Inc., Toronto

IN PASSING

Edwin Trueman, 51, food scientist: He helped create Cheer Whiz, and had a second career at McDonald's, where he discovered that french fries could be better frozen if they were partially cooked first. He bought several franchises in 1957 but risked losing them by taking the unprecedented step of hiring women, which was forbidden by McDonald's.

Sara Gurnee, 65, lawyer: He defended Richard Nixon during the 1974 U.S. grand jury impeachment hearings, serving as deputy attorney general on the House Judiciary committee and later as chief Republican counsel. He served as Virginia bar was disbanded and served four months in prison for embezzlement.

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A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF KINGA ILYES

It was a surreal five days for the once-unknown woman who guarded the cover of *Harvard's* annual University Student Issue. First came the letter to the editor from Sgt. Chris Karlgauss, who revealed it as Kinga—not some “superhero.” Playboy model—she is the pin-up girl of choice for Canadian soldiers stationed in Afghanistan. By Monday, the 24-year-old blond was on the front of the *Star* newspapers in Ottawa and Toronto. “Darling of Kandahar,” the headline blared.

Good news

Peace dividend

Labour activists in Canada are at an all-time low and working Canadians are reaping the benefits. According to the latest figures, strikes and lockouts declined 83,000 weeks in 2006—down from a whopping 6.1 million the year before. And while labour leaders blamed the shift on the decline of unionized industries, as fear among workers of global outsourcing, the big picture is hardly so bleak. Last week, *Star* Audio Canada reported that Canadian industries met at 51 per cent capacity in the first quarter, despite a rising Canadian dollar. Another federal survey found that two-third of employers plan to add staff in the coming months, while only five per cent are planning layoffs. So let the union bosses wait: knowledge about work out-and-pieces lines. There's of us are too busy working.

Sell-interest

If C's new Nation Alliance Party believes mainstream political parties haven't done enough to help the new nation or as a catalyst of Chinese descent living in our country, it aims to change that by holding candidates in the next provincial election, according to party leader Wing-Chen. We have qualms about introducing non-based parties to Canada's already splintered political system. But we suppose it's better than ethnic groups testing themselves out to the traditional parties to test them at national election time. If Chen's organization either encourages new Canadians to participate responsibly in our political processes or forces mainstream parties to make assignments of all origin, the nation's movement will have served a useful purpose.

Bad news

Yankee come over

Washington's "temporary access restriction" of American travellers who lack passports shows how misguided its new entry rules were to start with. Gripped by fears of terrorism, the Americans made passport mandatory for everyone crossing between the country and Canada. Ottawa has amended its passport application process in response, but Americans trying to get passports remain tied up in red tape. So for the time being, U.S. border

Voting for chaos

Of all the forces bedeviling the U.S. mission in Iraq, democracy itself may be what brings the occupation to its knees. In a symbolic vote of no confidence, Iraq legislators last week passed a resolution requiring "parliamentary permission" for the UN to extend the mandate of U.S.-led forces in the country. The move comes as the Bush administration hopes to present to the Democratic-controlled Congress to set a five-

year study, you have to start with a big deal. It represents the highest office in the world's most powerful country. But it's a little sad that a people living back to the 1930s, who were known as Herodians, who served under Rome, Byzantium, Bulgaria, Serbia and Ottoman rule, can't learn of a single more distinguished ruler.

Fine health

It's time for federal politicians to come down. According to the Canada Health Act has become a charitable lottery, Ottawa "find" the B.C. government \$200 million for allowing private surgical clinics to charge patients user fees, making it the only province to do so. Then despite the rapid proliferation of private MRI clinics from Quebec to Alberta, many Canadians wish to believe that the government is guarding against the spread of two-tier health care. The truth is more sinister: Ottawa would rather pretend to enforce the act than make necessary legislative changes to accommodate the private medical industry springing up across the country.

Get a job

It's been a tough week for proponents of dynamic privilege. First, hotel between Paris Hilton made a blubbery spectacle of herself upon returning to jail in California to serve the remainder of her drunk-driving sentence. Then Prince Harry—punch was not for the House of Windsor—was caught boozing it up with pot-smoking entertainment during a fortnight from railway workers in Alberta. Normally we would advocate against inheritance (1001) in this space. These two make that position really hard to defend. ■

FACE OF THE WEEK



DOUG GALT Republican presidential hopeful Doug Galt is the answer for the contract while campaigning in Bedford, N.H.

gault will accept never-loans and other proofs of citizenship. In short, the system that has served us well for many years. Leave it alone.

Jong III?

Not that we wish death on the man, but it's nice to think Kim Jong III's days on the world stage might be numbered. Stricken by chest illness, the North Korean dictator reportedly can't walk more than 30 m without sitting down. And with Fidel Castro apparently on the mend in Cuba, the world could certainly use one less neoconservative assassin.

able for withdrawal? The White House has repeatedly justified the war by holding out the prospect of democracy, U.S. friendly regime in the Middle East. But increasingly, the democratic will of everyone involved is to leave the various factions in Iraq alone to fight amongst themselves.

Carried away

Althaus packed the users of their capital, to greet U.S. President George W. Bush, whom their prime minister described as "the greatest and most distinguished guest we have ever had in all times." Even if you don't

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Was Bush lost? Does that explain Albania?



BARBARA AMIEL

I'm trying to understand what Sunday's visit by President Bush to Albania, Albanian Prime Minister Sali Berisha welcomed him as the "go to" and most distinguished guest we have ever had in all times." Surely the only distinguished head of state—in an official capacity—Albania has ever had? Perhaps one of Nicolai Kozlov's five family members dropped by once, although I can't see the luxury-loving Kozlov staying overnight in Tirana, at least not before 1991 when the five-star Shannon hotel was built. As Saliin cordially pointed out when informed that the United Nations would have a General Assembly with a single vote per country: "The USSR has not endured as million dead and laughs throughout the terrible wars have a voice in the councils of the world equal to the Albanians."

Albania's history is complicated, as is everything in the Balkans, but necessarily in print (we measure was left unacknowledged by the Ottoman Empire. For a time the nation had a chance under the reform of King Zog, but in 1929 the dark shadow of Stalinism descended. Enver Hoxha fell and reestablished civil in the early 1990s. Albania is said to be terrible place for tourists, and rich Europeans have been buying up its coastline like real estate, one of the five Albanians who were educated and flown to Albania told the New York Times they were not angry about these European donations in Cashes but are utterly desperate about their own year in Albania.

Why President Bush would linger over for several hours is baffling. If it was to announce U.S. support for an independent Kosovo, which he did in important applause in Tirana, it only reinforces the fictional nature of the Kosovo adventure. We, or rather NATO, bombed Serbia to stop ethnic cleansing of Albanians in Kosovo, and there would be while Kosovo's Albanians ethnically cleansed the Serbs. Choosing your favourite crime

cleansing strikes me as even more insane than the activity itself.

Probably Mr. Bush was uncertain of where he was. Europe is full of little countries that can travel even experienced travellers. San Marino, for example, has always puzzled me. I know it's in Europe and in the world's oldest republic, but I have never actually found it. This could be because it is one-tenth the size of New York City, with a population of around 30,000, and has fulfilled Serbian worst fears by becoming a member of the UN. It has a dynamic growth rate, which may have something to do with the fact that heads of state place almost no limits on whom people that is achieved by doubling up jobs in verb. Signor Enrico Andreoli, who is secretary of tourism, telecommunications, transportation, economic co-operation and sports. One visualizes a lion, topped Andreoli dressing



'Send it back,' she said. 'Can't,' I replied. 'The tabloids will accuse me of only eating cake.'

Nikes, grabbing a cell phone and whizzing off to christen a local train.

On June 12 we mark 100 days of this Chicago trial, which goes to the jury in under two weeks. While everyone around me is increasingly confident of that outcome, I am achieving Edgar Allan Poe's "The Pit and the Pendulum," a story that has given me nightmares since childhood. The blade swings lower and lower over the bound body, the neighbor walks off the cell noise in closer to squish the victim, and the only escape is the unknown horror in the rat-filled pit. That pretty much sums up waiting for a verdict. I take my comfort from the Latin quatrains Poe composed to produce the story (referring to both the Spanish Inquisition and the French Revolution's version): "Inquis pariter tunc." I begin the final lines, which translate roughly as "Here an ugly mob of torturers, with an unbearable thirst for innocent blood, arose full of dark frenzy. Our homeland is safe now, the beautiful pit destroyed and what was once a place of savage death

is now a place of life and health." Amen. Paris Hilton is in her own pit of flames, one of the Plegion-dorced cells in the Teen Tower jail in Los Angeles—the same cells once inhabited by "Whitewater" holdout Susan McDougal, who called her name there the worst of the seven jails she was in. Hilton's saga raises again the issue of a justice system that seems to live in perpetual fear of appearing to give privilege to the well-known defendant. That means that the famous and rich (as well as the poor whom we almost never hear about but have) a chance against prosecution and have to plea/bargain/are often treated unfairly. When I write about the Duke rape case, a Martin Short, Michael Jackson or Paris Hilton, some think I am really writing about my husband's trial, which I am not. I've been writing about the law for over 30 years, first tackled Martha Stewart long before

my husband's indictment, and would have written about Michael and Paris had this case never occurred. But in view of this perspective, I've found it so easy on each topic said that trial is over.

Actually, it is not only one's typing hands that are half-dead. I realized this after being served a noble dessert at a London restaurant: "Send that back," said my girlfriend. "Can't," I replied. "The tabloids will accuse me of only eating cake!" (If the grocery shopping is short on items as you're swamped in a queue, the vice response is to keep quiet.) I've accumulated all sorts of helpful behavioral hints (I have been asked on the beach) for attention like my nose, including the key rule of dry shampoo. You will scratch and pull out your hair at various times and then be far too concerned to wash it. My favorite brand, René Furterer's Nacaris, can keep morale and a hand going for several weeks. Which, God willing, should take me to the end of this phase of our lives. ■

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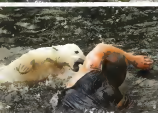


KING OF BEARS RULES GERMANY

Thousands of people a day queue to see Knut, the first polar bear born at the Zoo-Berlin in more than 50 years. Rescued at birth by his mother, he's been hand-fed by staffer Thomas Görtzke. Welcomes animal rights groups suggested he be killed rather than kept in captivity, sootily was increased. Now there are Knut stuffedies, Knut candy, and even a G8 protester impersonating Knut.

1. Görtzke sits next to Knut at the zoo on June 5. Knut was born six months ago on Dec. 5.
2. Toy polar bears and postcards for sale at the zoo.
3. Tubey Higgins with a Knut t-shirt at the German premiere of *Avatar*-Max 2.
4. Candy in the shape of Knut.
5. Protesters dressed as G8 leaders and as Knut in Berlin.
6. Visitors watch Knut.
7. Knut on news.

8, 9. Knut "plays" with Görtzke.



It's incredible that in the aristocracy it's still a status symbol to have the king-to-be sleeping with your wife'

TINA BROWN TALKS WITH KENNETH WHYTE ABOUT MARRIED WOMEN AND THE PRINCE OF WALES, DIANA'S BIG LIE, AND DODI'S FATAL ERROR

Q I want to start with what was for me the most shocking revelation in your book, The Diana Chronicles, and it's that you were to find Prince Charles gay. As Chrissie Lister, I simply was trying to say that I could understand why she would find him gay, not so much that I personally find him gay.

Q Well, what is it?
A Well, it was in a combination of terrific grooming, manners, and royal etiquette. You know, when you get those three things together it's a very attractive proposition. It's a beautifully mannered man, actually, and does attempt to connect, and there is a humorism about him that's actually very appealing. And he's got very big blue eyes, and he has a very good set of very beautiful teeth, and altogether it was—I put it into the past now because he's nearly 60—but when he was the action man prince it was an attractive proposal.

Q He got a lot of action, from what I hear.
A He got a huge amount of action.
Q I was surprised at that size, an endless stream of girls, and not only available but married women.

A Yes, he was very big on married women. In fact, Private Eye magazine—the satirical magazine in England—ran a story at one time that said that it was his wife—which was the bookish club for the aristocracy—he'd been voted "Dish of the Year" for the way he

treated women. He was quite a voracious. **Q** Now mention this tendency for British aristocrats to make way for Charles.

A Yes, an extraordinary one. He's incredible that in and against the aristocracy it is still a status symbol to have the king-to-be sleeping with your own wife. To be considered as considered something that you'll take for the sake of England.

Q So Diana comes into this. She's a very young girl from a good family, and she's had access to education.

A She was sent to a school that really did nothing but prepare you to leave early and get married. You know, the daughter of an earl who's got all the money in the world goes to a school like that and she leaves at 16 to be a marry. That was very common. None of her sisters were educated, either. But the boy, Charles, was sent to Eton and Oxford, the two best schools in England.

Q You surprised at the degree to which the Queen Mother and Prince Philip were involved in acting up the match between Charles and Diana.

A I know, I was very surprised too.
Q How could maybe the two most knowledgeable people in the world on what it takes to be the wife of a future king of England—how could they be here misjudging the girl?

A It was very hard not to misjudge Diana. Diana was beautiful and fresh and young, and vivacious, and came from impeccable lineage, and adored him, and, you know, to say, she was the last virgin left in England. Charles

was very pucky and he'd been through all these other girlfriends and none of them had seemed to stick. Of course, it became more and more clear that the reason that they didn't stick was because he was in love with Camilla. Peter Bowles and I didn't want any of them to stick. The Queen and Prince Philip were getting increasingly nervous that he was turning into Edward VIII, who abdicated. Edward VIII also had this great penchant for married women, and they became very anxious about whether or not Charles was going to wind up spinning the wheel of marry Camilla and leaving her get divorced.

Q Right. And it became very clear that Charles and Diana were incompatible and disillusioned within months of marriage.
A Months. I mean, really from the moment of the honeymoon where Charles was stuck in his trellis cage by Lauren van der Zand, and Diana was playing the piano to a cheering crowd of custom cars when she was doing. She just wasn't on his wavelength. Charles was like a man of 60, he was marriedly old for his years.

Q What is the single most alarming point in Charles's behavior toward his wife?

A I think that Charles had absolutely no idea how beautiful Diana quite as publicly as he did. I think that when he finally married Camilla, and I think when he was still married, when he was at Diana's back was turned, of the forget something and she drove back—Camilla's car was parked outside the house, I thought that was outrageous

very actually, so did everybody die in the royal family.

Q Diana wasn't married in all this. What was the biggest lie she spread about Charles?
A I think one lie she spread about him was that he was pregnant with William the first he herself down the stairs in a suicide attempt, and Prince Charles put said, "Oh, dear. Well, pull yourself together. I'm going out hunting." In fact, the whole thing was a total fabrication. Diana dropped on the stairs, had a tumble. There was a lot of harm because she was pregnant but she was the doctor and he and she was just fine.

Q Did the marriage have its full?

A It didn't have failed. I think that there were moments, particularly toward the end, when there was the beginning of a new understanding, where Diana was finally maturing. Not only was she a princess, a global superstar and a mother by the age of 21, which is incredible when you think about it—but she was also trying to handle this very complex, sophisticated problem of a husband who had a teenage mother. By the time she was having her [in the end] grown up, she'd had affairs, and I think she was getting to a place I think she might well have been able to accept a sort of negotiated truce. But unfortunately, the Camilla part of it was just too strong. You know, Camilla fought her corner, she was extremely successful. That is a woman who never backed off. Charles, at a certain point, didn't want her to back off.

Q But that exposure of Charles's intimate conversations with Camilla—the newspaper telephone calls—permanently changed perceptions of him?
A It exposed, for a moment, that all the doubts about Camilla were also his, but on top of that there was a sense that this is what Diana had to deal with. You know, she was beloved, and here was Charles having this extremely nasty conversation clearly with a woman he'd always met was just a friend and clearly wasn't. People were very, very angry with Charles about it.

Q You describe Dodi Al Fayed as an Egyptian lounge lizard. What did you find out that was new about Dodi?
A I hadn't noticed how misperceived he was by his friends. I wanted to marry a woman and his father told him he'd better get himself down to the south of France and take out Diana. I thought that he was a bit more of a player than that, and he wasn't.

Q You said accurately with the night of the crash.

A I wanted to do the crash in all the detail that I could. There were these myths, really, about the death. One was, could she have

been murdered? The other was, could medical treatment have been better to save her? And finally, did the press kill her? I was devoted to see who was to blame. I came to the conclusion that anybody was to blame, really, it was Dodi Al Fayed. There were a thousand options for them to avoid being exposed any more to the press that night. But instead they drove first from the airport to the Villa Windsor, then to the apartment, and then from the apartment to the bus. The notion that they were going to be able to get some last-minute information, I mean, it was madness. Dodi was either suicidally die that night, or out of his mind, or just wanting to be followed, you know? You can blame the paparazzi in the large sense that they're ruthless and they should leave people alone, but the fact is their job is to pursue them, and they didn't have to be pursued.

Q As a subject of royal history is Diana going to endure?

A I think Diana will endure. As a matter of fact, I think Diana will only remain current, because as her son William heads for the throne, she was the mother of the king and I think that the king is going to want to honor his mother. And I think the beginning of this this concert starting on July 1.

Q You mentioned William. When you read about Kate Middleton, what did you think?

A I was fascinated because I thought that ultimately history was going to be about that Kate Middleton had Diana's example to live by and I was going to have a Dorothea situation that is what Middleton was when given by William, but my guess is that she actually Kate Middleton had very cold feet about all this whole thing, because what she was beginning to experience was very much what Diana experienced, which was to be between more and more of a media focus. The royal family didn't like it. Whoever marries William is going to have a very difficult time, if she's a beautiful girl, my hope is that William marries a house faced child who just does good works and hopefully the media will have absolutely no interest in her, at which point they'll all be very happy.

Q What was the nature of your relationship with Diana?

A I had lunch with her before she died. But it wasn't a friendship.

Q How did you feel her?

A Well, she changed enormously. My first conversation with her was at the office: married and the media's changing, seven shows. I remember going to a dinner and a kind of innocent, girlish charm, and by the end she was that very sophisticated, media-savvy, worldly, beautiful movie star. She really did achieve with incredible powerful grace, and sense of professional, actually. There was

a professionalism to her at the end.
Q Did she deserve to die more famous woman in the world?

A Deserve? Yes, in the sense that she was much more beautiful than anybody could ever conceive in person. She was a truly beautiful girl. The combination of her height and her coloring and her figure and these incredible blue, cobalt blue eyes, and this very, very English nose complexion, she was a knockout. Secondly, she was a princess, which is admirable. And finally, she did do wonderful humanitarian work, and she had a real gift for people. She had a tremendous gift for making the people she treated, the sick and the ailing, the disabled, feel so loved and loved by her presence. People spoke over and over again about the life Diana gave them. That's quite a gift, a really a



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Q Everybody talked about her not being terribly bright—she reformed in her last job as a plane—but you give her credit for her emotional intelligence.

A She had great emotional intelligence. She really was pretty fearless in the way she handled her role as princess of Wales. But she didn't intuitively grasp the word go, she did it with grace, she did it with charm, she did it with confidence. She worked very hard at it, actually. She was a big star in the monarchy. She was, as Paul Johnson said, our greatest royal figure since Queen Victoria. ■

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Without really trying, we've reinvented marriage again, with help from the Charter

BY KEN MACQUEEN

CHILD IN A TWENTYSOMETHING legal suit from Toronto, who hopes to go to law school one day. She's interested in hiking, camping, painting and photography. "The 'old fashioned' way, with film." As far as her thoughts on marriage, she's even more old-fashioned: "None, Old Testament." "I am not into it, polygamy, which brings me here!" she wrote to *Sacramento*, an online forum for women in polygamous marriages, for those considering it, and for "poly-friendly individuals, male and female."

Sacramento is one of a burgeoning number of pro-polygamy websites, both faith-based and secular, devoted to an act that is Bigamy in theory, if only in practice—in Canada and all 50 American states. Hundreds of people from around the world have posted to the U.S.-based site, but for the most part, they aren't who you'd expect. They aren't members of a fundamentalist breakaway Mormon sect, like those living in redwoods in Riverside Rd., B.C., as well as in Utah, Arizona, Texas and other states. Nor are they largely self-proclaimed polygamists in the Mormon sense, who denounce their unrepentant polygamy as "Christian polygamy," who draw their inspiration from the mainstream prophets of the Old Testament.

For others, like William and Mary, a couple from small-town Ontario who asked that their real names not be used, religion has

nothing to do with their choice of marriage partners. The couple, who have reawakened in his and a lot of other parents, are looking for a second, or third wife, to complete their family. Polygamy isn't for everyone, says Wilkins. His estimates put one-quarter of the population could handle the challenge and months of multiple spouses. "If we are not to be not polygamists and need more than one person in our marriage," says Wilkins, "who is the government to say no to that?"

In British Columbia, that question falls to Attorney General Wally Opat, a lawyer and a former justice of the B.C. Supreme Court. In fact, governments haven't said no very often. Laws against plural marriages are rarely prosecuted that a strong case can be made that they are already defunct. The object of Opat's ire—Bountiful, a polygamous community outside Creston, B.C.—has

operated with integrity for more than 60 years, despite allegations of forced marriages of underage girls, child abuse and the trafficking of wives across the Canada-U.S. border. A nearly year-long investigation by the Crown since last fall without charges being laid.

Despite that, Opat insists the polygamy laws have teeth. "I don't think the true of the fact law has not been enforced makes it an avoid law," he says. Still, he concedes there is a risk that a law, not enforced, can be brought into "disrepute." Nor does he have the support of his department's own legal experts who think the law would fail a constitutional challenge. It's a sufficiently serious issue that it should be resolved in court, he says. If charges were laid, he says, "maybe governments should think of raising that law and maybe amending it."

Opat believes polygamy runs counter to Canadian values, but he concedes the issue is open to debate. "The question of series is, in the office of polygamy still relevant in today's law," says Opat. "There's been some suggestion that if two or more women want to marry a man, or vice versa, and they all consent, what business does the state have intervening in that?"

Opat is the latest in a line of B.C. attorneys general during back almost 30 years facing huge political heat to strike that question by raising the validity of Canada's polygamy laws by being somewhat changes. That carries much risk. Would polygamists win in court—a real possibility—Canada's already suspect polygamy law would be blown out of the water. Marriage, already open to same-sex couples, could become a very crowded institution. "There's no question about that," says Opat. "If the courts ruled the polygamy provisions of the Criminal Code are no longer valid then obviously it would mean that the act of polygamy would be lawful conduct. You always take that chance."

WHILE THE IMPLICATIONS are staggering, the weight is the thousands or so members of Bountiful. There, under successive bishops, the leader members of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (FLDS), the "Principle"—beliefs rooted in the earliest Mormon teachings. A several times it has been most successful plans were to achieve the highest level of isolation, a belief that the mountain church abandoned in 1984. "In many countries where you have a system that we saw where 10- or 15-year-old girls are being married off to 40- or 50-year-old men," says Opat. "It is clear that is abhorrent to Canadian values."

Letters and calls for action have flooded his office, says Opat. Among the correspond-

ents emerged at the failure to lay charges is Jacqui Anderson, an anti-polygamy crusader from B.C.'s Sunshine Coast. "When you become attorney general, people believe that at long last the reports and polyphiles at Bountiful would be charged. It appears to me that's not the case," she wrote him in a recent email. "It would appear that your department is riddled with misapprehensions, who place the so-called 'unusual' rights of women polygamists above the Charter rights and human rights of women and girls."

Opat makes no secret of his desire for a prosecution, based not only on polygamy statutes but on child protection laws. So far

POLYGAMY UNDER FIRE: B.C. Attorney General Wally Opat, left, met with AG Mark Storch



'IF MARRIAGE DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A MAN AND WOMAN, WHY NOT MORE THAN TWO PARTIES?'

he has been stymied at every turn. "In the more serious of the sexual charges we're so overwhelmed, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, we've had trouble getting witnesses," he says. "Any time police go there, they don't easily get co-operation. People don't say 'There is considerable evidence that the young girls are consenting to all of this,' he insists. "So they say yourself, it's this a real and genuine concern?"

Opat says either "bad blacks" have drawn off-limits by lay charges under where there is no blanket prohibition of lying—adding laws prohibiting polygamy and the related offence of bigamy. Both are sections of the Criminal Code of Canada—290 for bigamy and 293 for polygamy—carry maximum penalties

of five years' imprisonment. But the law against polygamy especially is almost never enforced, says an analysis of the legal and social realities of polygamy conducted for the federal government in 2001. In rare cases of a conviction, says the study, for the Justice Department and some of Western Canada, "the statute does not indicate a tendency toward actively tight police action." The polygamy law does nothing to protect women or children, says the study, which recommends the law be repealed and the practice decriminalized—a finding that had Paul Martin's former Liberal government running for cover. Moreover, it has little relevance in an increasingly people

live, secular and multicultural country. Marriage has already been legally redefined to include same-sex unions to meet equality provisions of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. At the Supreme Court of Canada noted in the same-sex marriage reference, the notion of a "Christian" marriage is no longer relevant. "Canada is a pluralistic society," the court ruled. "Marriage, from the perspective of the state, is a civil contract."

Polygamy is also ripe to fall to a constitutional challenge. While many aspects of the guarantee of religious freedom is grounds for a challenge, the report's authors say the ban on polygamy is most likely to offend the constitutional guarantee of "liberty," thought to make key personal choices. "In Canada today," the report says, "it is difficult to conceive of a more fundamental personal choice than when one chooses to marry."

Many immigrants had from Muslim countries where their polygamous unions were legally recognized, the report's authors also note. "They then should a legally sanctioned marital relationship (often legally sanctioned in another country) be subject to criminal penalty?" As for those seeking plural marriages

In Canada, a wide "bright line" of the permissive sexual mores in Canada why single one due particular activity for criminal purposes?"

Recessive opinions in B.C. suggest, at the very least, the polygamy law is unworkable. A first attempt to prosecute polygamists in Bountiful was abandoned in 1999, after legal and constitutional experts consulted by the Attorney General's office unanimously concluded the law "is in direct conflict with the freedom of religious guarantees in Section 2 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms." One

of the experts consulted, retired Justice Richard Anderson of the provincial appeal court, concluded "it would appear that section 293 is obsolete and spent [unhelpful] and constitutional is inadequate to solve the real problems confronting society." Oppal concedes

Charter shopping. Mack isn't universally shared. Though federal Justice Minister Rob Nicholson declined an interview request, a departmental spokesperson offered a terse defense of the status quo: "We have a criminal ban on polygamy that is consistent with the Constitution."

Queen's University law professor Nick Bell also thinks the law would survive a court challenge, in fact, he favours putting it to the test. Bell, the author of *The History and Future of Marriage in Canada*, is disappointed

The argument against polygamy is that it is fundamentally an unequal relationship."

POLYGAMY, in many Canadian eyes, is defined by the activities of Bountiful, where powerful leaders hold sway, often dictating the selection of partners, in marriages that frequently match teenage girls to much older men. But the vibrant world of Bountiful is just one variant. Other polygamists keep a lower profile to avoid the risk of prosecution and the certainty of social censure.

Currently that is true of the Canadian-Muslim community, where polygamous arrangements are not uncommon, but are rarely discussed outside their culture's. "Anecdotally, we hear that in Toronto and Ottawa some so-called religious leaders are perform-

IF POLYGAMY IS LEGAL, THEN SURELY POLYGAMOUS IMMIGRATION WOULD FOLLOW



similar conclusions were reached in subsequent legal opinions sought by B.C. in 2001 by former B.C. chief justice Allan McEachern, and more recently by four senior Crown counsels, including Robert Gillen, the assistant deputy attorney general.

Oppal isn't letting the matter die. His department appointed Vancouver lawyer Richard Peck last week as an independent special prosecutor, to review the probe file on Bountiful. In B.C., Crown prosecutors determine if a case goes forward, based largely on two criteria: is there a likelihood of conviction, and, if so, is it in the public interest to take the case to court? The department chose an independent prosecutor since B.C. Crown lawyers have already made their opinion clear: that charges under the polygamy law would fail. Oppal insists he isn't shopping for an opinion favouring prosecution of Bountiful elders. Peck can reach his own conclusions, Oppal says he just wants a consultation. "I'm quite concerned about the explicit stain and all the other things that are said to be happening there." But, he adds, "my own personal opinions don't necessarily translate into action."

The view that the polygamy law is on the



PRO SIDE: (clockwise from top) Signs in Salt Lake City, Winston Blackmore, Warren Jeffs

than B.C. is reaching yet another expert opinion. "I don't care what Mr. Peck says, I care about what the courts say," Bell says. Polygamy laws have trumped issues of religious freedom in challenges across jurisdictions, including the U.S., India and the European Union, he notes.

There's a risk the Supreme Court hasn't finished the process of redefining marriage that started with the reference on same-sex unions, he concludes. "If you open up the definition of marriage, as we have, one can ask, 'Well, it doesn't have to be a man and a woman, why not more than two parties?'" The issues, though, are different, he believes. "The fundamental basis of the challenge to have same-sex marriages is that allowing it promotes equality, and we don't want to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation

ing. Muslim [polygamous] marriages," says Ali Hagberg, executive director of the Canadian Council of Muslim Women. The group, based in Guelph, Ont., is opposed to polygamy because of its perceived impact on women's rights. While Muslim men in most cultures must seek the approval of the first wife before adding to the family, she says the reality is different. "The second wife has no rights," she says. "As for the first wife, yes, the husband might ask her permission, but if she says no, what can she do?"

Arif Muzaffar, the host of an Urdu-language talk radio program in Toronto, has discussed the issue on her program. Sex outside marriage is strictly prohibited, she says. But the Koran allows as many as four wives for men, though women are denied multiple husbands. "To be honest, as a woman, I don't

PHOTO BY GUY LAWRENCE FOR THE GLOBE AND MAIL



Dole Sparklers. **Small** that sparkles.



feel bad about it," she says. "Society may women are having her periods, their monthly oil days, or rather than a man getting into a wrong thing in doing worse and bringing a woman—Allah and Allah—better he should marry [additional wives]."

Hazrat, a 46-year-old widow, has friends in many polygamous marriages. She, in fact, had urged her late husband to find a second wife. "I did not have a child for 14 years," she says. "It's okay, I told him. It's better that you marry and you can have a descendant."

'IF WE NEED MORE THAN ONE PERSON IN OUR MARRIAGE, WHO'S TO SAY NO?'



GOING PUBLIC Indonesia's most popular Islamic preacher Abdullah Qudus (left) sits with his first and second wives. **WFO** TV's latest Big Love depicts a polygamous family

He voiced the idea. It's no easy thing to have many wives, she says with a laugh. "He has to fulfill their rights. He has to divide his wealth. He has to divide his money equally."

And then, close off the *Muslem* Islamic Court in Mississippi, against many multiple Islamic marriages are conducted in Canada but are simply not registered. It's no different than other who live common-law, he says. "No one says, 'hey, you have to be married to live together.' These days are over." Polygamous families migrating to Canada are few because. These marriages aren't recognized, so multiple wives and her children don't gain entry. "We should allow it," he says. "We should respect different people." That, however, is a can of worms the federal government doesn't want opened. Quran's preference for a woman if polygamy is desired is limited, polygamous immigration would

currently follow. "We can't discriminate against someone from, say, Afghanistan, who wants to move here with their four wives, or married, 30 wives and their 30 or 100 children."

The Internet is alive with debate on the issue. Many sites deal with the cost and fear of those forced into polygamous marriages. Pro-polygamy websites offer windows into another view of polygamous life. *24/7live.com* is a contributing site when the advertisement are not seriously chaotic, considering the subject matter. John and Kelly, a business couple



of two college-educated sons of Arabic. She's expressed with the portrayal of the financial and emotional complexities of the family dynamics, and the pressures of keeping life going among them secret.

Summer is also a place for advice, on matters spiritual, marital and legal. There's a lively section on dealing with marriage and intimacy. Openness varies. Some prefer aggressive bed scenes, even separate beds, others from one big room. Some have sexual affairs; one has had and one wife at a time. For others, all aspects of marriage are shared. "We are one husband and five wives. We all sleep in the same room with two giant beds," writes Georgia, "but we spend most time all together in the bigger bed with our husband while the other is more for sexual sex."

Some husbands schedule sex with their wives in strict rotation. "We had individual nights rotating in the beginning, and for us, it did not work," says Brenda Lee. "Thus we went to all sleeping in the same bed, and letting nature run its course." Georgia, in a marriage of six, cautions: "We have sex all together or in different configurations according to our desires," she says. "We all enjoy being together in the same room and those who are not having sex love to see others, and those having sex love being seen."

There's a section called *Final Truths*, which warns the uninitiated of some of the downsides of sharing a spouse: the huge potential for jealousy, the racial stigma, and the lack of legal or pension rights for subsequent wives. Above all, there is the warning, which few on the *Summer* sites pay much heed, that polygamy is illegal. Well, sort of.

Mark Henkel, founder of *TruthForce*, an international advocacy group for Christian (read non-fundamentalist) Mormon polygamy—says most U.S. polygamous families, like those in Canada, have little to fear from the law. He estimates there are fewer than 100,000 polygamous American families. "In the modern era, no polygamist has been convicted, or even charged where there was no [other] crime involved," he says from his headquarters in Old Orchard Beach, Maine. These who go to the trouble of showing up at court to legally register second and subsequent marriages. And those who use polygamy as a vehicle for forced marriages, statutory rape, child and spousal abuse. When Jeff, the leader of LDS members in the U.S. and parts of *Roosevelt*, is currently on trial in Utah on a string of charges, including two counts of rape is an exemplar for his role in marrying an underage girl to her cousin. "These are separate issues of crime that abuse," says Henkel. "Pure polygamy of consenting adults, legally, is nothing more than cohabitation."

Henkel says the Christian polygamy more of two college-educated sons of Arabic. She's expressed with the portrayal of the financial and emotional complexities of the family dynamics, and the pressures of keeping life going among them secret.

ment, which started in 1994, is gaining acceptance in the U.S., Canada and elsewhere. It is based on a conservative, fundamentalist reading of the Bible, a version of Old Testament leaders and prophets, and a literature based in biblical government powers. There is no prohibition against polygamy in the Bible, he notes. "When you do the deep study you realize that, was a man, David had eight married known wives, Moses had two wives and Abraham had three wives," he says. "If this is such a bad thing, and so evil,



CRESTON, B.C. Fundamentalist Mormons who practice polygamy walk past protesters

there is no way the holiest text in the Bible would have more than one wife." He says the "anti-polygamy" view of anti-wife, civil married marriage is an invention of the ancient Catholic Church that was later codified into law. It's not for governments to define the "God gives individual right" of marriage, he says. "It occurred before the very laws of government and it will occur if government collapses."

Back in Canada, William and Mary are one to trumpet Bible. The same reason as the *Byers* in *William's*. "There is a general fear in Canada that if people are allowed polygamy there will be a breakdown of, well, everything." Indeed, if polygamy is deemed against "the norms of society and order" there is some chance that courts might justifiably ban marriage to two persons, the justice department analysis notes. It might also justify use of the powerful and controversial "non-recognizing clause" to curtail any right to polygamy—in spite of *Oppl* says is worth considering.

William wants that *Oppl* forces the issue a bit past. "These right-wing westerners will want something that will come back to bite them," he says. "There are more people who are willing to let people think as they wish in Canada than not." That said, he agrees the

position is *Roosevelt*. "They essay children, which is not the case with most polygamists."

William Blackman, a Creston-based businessman and one called *Roosevelt*, is an advocate of deep scrutiny of the RCMP's for its freedom investigation. He is one of 34 children of a polygamist father. He has lived, by various estimates, more than 10 children by some 26 wives, some seriously close to 14, then the age of consent. He didn't respond to Henkel's request for an interview, but his opinions are posted on his website and blog.

MANY THINK THE LAW WOULDN'T SURVIVE A CHARTER CHALLENGE

He calls the people of *Roosevelt* victims of "persecution" by the government and the RCMP. "The question is, who can show us a better way," he asks. "Not one single, reliable, professional faith-finding organization can show us a system that is superior to our way of life." It's a way of life preached by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. He calls it a "sacred" document.

Oppl is unimpressed. He, too, has high regard for the Charter, it hangs on his office wall. "I don't think right-thinking people really condemn polygamy," he says. "That's my own view, but that may not be the law." Inevitably, the right to freedom of polygamy seems destined for a future judgment day—by the courts, or a higher power still. The answer lies in the hands of the Charter, the Bible or the Book of Mormon, all open to infinitely creative interpretation. ■

With John Golder and Barbara Rignone

READ MARK STEYN

DAILY FROM THE CONRAD BLACK TRIAL AT MACLEANS.CA



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MOSCOW MURDER?

A widow says Vladimir Putin was behind her husband's death

BY KATE FILLION • As Vladimir Putin listened about nuclear missiles at the G8 last week, fellow from war-torn Russia nuclear event—the poisoning was poison—120, a radioactive isotope, of former KGB officer named Alexander in exile Alexander Litvinenko—continued to accumulate. In England, The Guardian reported that since Litvinenko's death in London last November, more than 3,000 government staffers worked as the ongoing public health crisis, which involved testing hundreds of people for radiation exposure and draining supplies of radioactive contamination in multiple sites. And in Canada, a radioactive isotope

contaminating the Kremlin in Litvinenko's nearby, as well as the murder of journalist Anna Politkovskaya, prompted to similar. Politkovskaya's "fragility" (Litvinenko's) request for the extradition of ex-KGB officer Andrei Lugovoi to stand trial for the killing, while Lugovoi protested his innocence and blamed the British intelligence service for the hit and then his own co-opted boss and Putin's wariness—disgust from Litvinenko, Berezovsky and Litvinenko were close while Litvinenko, Litvinenko had publicly opposed a plot to assassinate Berezovsky, who became his partner and, after both were granted asylum, his landlord in London. Already erudite with more allegory characters and explosive twists of fate than a spy novel, Lugovoi Litvinenko has more than the work, with the publication of *Death of a Doctor*, authors of Litvinenko's widow,

IN HER BOOK Maria Litvinenko details her husband's murder by radioactive poisoning

Maria, and Alex Goldfarb. The Litvinenko met in Moscow in 1991 and married shortly thereafter; they had Sasha in 2000 along with their son Antony, now 13, with the help of Goldfarb, a dentist scientist who runs a foundation for human rights activists that was set up by, yet, ironically.

Alex Goldfarb and Maria Litvinenko talked exclusively to *Maclean's* from London about the man they called "Sasha," whose remains are still so radioactive they cannot safely be viewed for 28 years.

Q How well did Alexander Litvinenko know Andrei Lugovoi?

AG: They met on several occasions back when Alexander was in Russia, but they were never close. [About a year ago, they] started talking about business ventures. Lugovoi owns a very big security company in Moscow, and Sasha was working here [in London] as a consultant to a couple of large British companies involved in private security, risk assessment, and so on. He initially became the go-between for Lugovoi and British security companies, then they eventually discussed maybe opening their own security company in London. That was the purpose for these meetings that ended up with his poisoning.

Q Maria, how long did it take your husband to realize he had been poisoned?

ML: Actually, when Sasha became extremely sick on the first night he told me, "It's not simple sickness, it looks like somebody tried to poison me." But of course for him it was very difficult to believe. Even when he was in hospital and we tried to ask medical staff to check him for poisoning, they didn't believe us. Just in the second week and a half of his illness was the first time when they found some heavy metal in his blood and started to talk about poisoning.

Q Was it your decision to relocate to the point the poison of Sasha when he was dying, and what has this effect been on you and your son?

ML: It was very difficult for me because I'm quite a private person, but I was very happy with a quiet life here in England. I still never again be the same, how it was. When the poisoning happened, and Sasha was in better condition and everyone was asking for permission to the hospital. He still had hair but he slowly looked not very well, and he said, "Maria, probably it's not a good idea to take any precaution in hospital because when I recover it will appear as if I was ill." And I said to him, "But I agree with you. But when he became worse, Sasha said, 'People should know, they should see what they did to me.' You could see the pictures

how he'd changed completely, from a normal, good-looking, handsome man to how he looked in the last days.

Q On his deathbed, he accused Putin of ordering his murder. Why did he think the president of Russia wanted to kill him?

AG: Well, first of all because he knew him [Lugovoi]. Second, because once the past five or six years, Sasha was actively involved in investigating various crimes which were an indignity of probability were attributed to the Russian secret services, but the 1998 apartment bombings in Moscow [which killed more than 200 civilians, and which Putin blamed on Chechen terrorists]. Regardless of whether it's true or false, this allegation, he was one of the most vocal saying the evidence points to the Russian secret services. The major piece of evidence that points to the Russian government being responsible for Sasha's murder is of course poisoners. As a murder weapon, it's a smoking gun.

Q Former Lugovoi wouldn't have had any other way to get it?

AG: Putin is probably by the government's nuclear lab and weapons lab. The

the Russian state and started to demand democracy in Russia and initiate a non-phobic anti-Western stance in the country through the media that they took control of it's writing up. But Putin's repressed threatened by the very existence of free and liberal societies. But Maria has a different view.



LITVINENKO wanted his picture released. "People should see what they did to me."



Litvinenko: He's not only Sasha's death, but other people who suffered because of poisoners.

Q Do you fear for your son after a month of having written this book?

ML: It's a little bit too late. I guess I take the attitude not to dwell on it, because if everything ends up well a world come out that there was no poison in everything. I believe that Sasha's assassination was a botched operation. The assassin was that the cause of his death would never be found. The poison kit, that actually led to his Lugovoi and ultimately I believe to the Kremlin, was discovered just by accident. It was not supposed to be discovered. Under the circumstances it's really gratifying that they would do another hit or operation of that sort. But in the long run, you can expect any dirty tricks, because these people are obviously

readers, and Sasha's is the most famous but of course on the first political assassination which may be attributed to the Kremlin. Some of them are suspected, some of them are proven, such as the assassination of the former Chechen president, who you expect anything from these people.

Q Did Sasha's death have any warning or greater purpose, or was it just a casual act of terrorism?

AG: Sasha's assassination, I believe, was meant to look like some sort of internal assassination by the London group [of Russians who have been granted asylum], the son was to frame Berezovsky and the Chechen group, and that is what definitely would have happened but poisoners had been discovered by the British authorities. But if you talk about a higher purpose, if you think in these terms, Sasha, by his death, has managed to demonstrate quite convincingly what any good people tried to do without much success, hands included, over the past night years that what's happening in Russia is very different from the picture we get from our leaders, that there's democracy and reform. Quite the contrary. I think that now, too large extent because of Sasha's sacrifice, they have

to understand that what they're dealing with is extremely dangerous and potentially threatening to the security of the Western world.

Q Do you think there's a connection between Putin's refusal to extradite Lugovoi and his recent Cold War rhetoric regarding the proposed American nuclear defence deal in Europe?

AG: He appears to believe, and that is actually confirmed by those who know him, that there is a conspiracy which wants Western governments—or, as they say, reactionary circles—with the CIA, MI6, the Chechens, Boris Berezovsky, the media, and some elements of the Russian democracy movement, to keep Russia in a subjugated and subservient position. This is the huge conspiracy Putin displays in his statements and actions when he loses confidence. He believes the West is out to destroy, punish and humiliate Russia, and I think that this attitude is in a disaster. So yes, in this sense, there is a connection.

Q Maria, what do you wish most about your husband?

ML: When you meet a person you believe in your other half, finally... it's very difficult now I find, "How strange robe without him." Of course, I'm a normal person, I don't think, "One day he'll be home." I understand completely what happened, but emotionally it's very, very difficult. I still have the feeling of him, the smell of him. M

'WHEN SASHA BECAME ILL HE TOLD ME, "IT'S NOT SIMPLE

SICKNESS—SOMEBODY TRIED TO POISON ME.'

PHOTOGRAPH BY PAVEL LACONETTI (RIGHT)

STYLING: JANE AP

DARK SIDE OF THE BOOM

You know Canada's economy is on a roller when house prices in Saskatoon skyrocket nearly 50 per cent in six months, whilst even northern outposts like Sudbury, Ont., are joining in the real estate mania, when former New Brunswick premier Frank McKenna heralds that province, with its rapidly rising job rate, as "Alberta with a view," and when, back in the land where it all started, folks on Post-McMurray, Alta., still can't find anyone willing to drop up in rancher Buddy the Buffalo for \$25 an hour?

The boom is on. With each stunning economic announcement, analysts and business gamblers have had to reach further back in time for cultural touchstones to illustrate just

Unemployment is at a 33-year low, the dollar is soaring, and the economy is hotter than it's been for years. So why are so many of us struggling to get by?

BY JASON KIRBY AND
JOHN INTINI

how great the country is doing. Was it Joe Clark or Pierre Trudeau who also gave him credit last time the dollar was this high and unemployment so low? Suffice it to say I've been 30 years since Canada looks this good. Jobs are plentiful while more and more economists are predicting the unthinkable—that the loonie could reach parity with the U.S. greenback by year's end. On the world stage, Canada's vast bounty of natural resources is fueling an one-size global recession.

When U.S. President George W. Bush declared last year that America is addicted to oil, he ought as well have called Canada its main pusher for the 2.5 million barrels of petroleum we ship across the border each day. As tens of millions of Chinese march up

the ladder into middle class, that country has come to rely heavily on the copper and zinc gauged from below the Canadian Shield (and growing mines everywhere) but buoyed by the oil being dug out of Alberta sands. Add it up, and Canada's net worth reached an all time high of \$4.9 trillion earlier this year, at \$150,000 for every man, woman and child.

So why, then, do we feel so poor? The boom has not uniformly made Canadians better off on paper, but for many people it has failed to translate into real money and affluence. For one thing, many of the sectors that have benefited the Canadian economy have raised wages and let consumers squander in the pocketbook. Oil imports may be on the rise, but for regular Canadians, that means gasoline prices are up, too. And despite what the statistics tell us about the country's soaring gross domestic product, many of us just feel grossly underpaid. The gains simply haven't trickled down from the oil wells and factory end estate listings. If anything, we're having to borrow more just to keep up, creating a whole new burden as interest rates slide close by.

Consider the average Canadian's paycheck. For the vast majority of workers in this country, personal disposable incomes, while increasing, have failed to keep pace with economic growth during the boom years between 2002 and last year. Only workers in Alberta and

Swedeblom and his team say their per capita earnings grew faster than the provincial average, and experts say what guests are leaving isn't only because more people are working. In fact, average hourly wages, adjusted for inflation, fell in Canada during the first five years of this decade, according to Statistics Canada, from \$21.40 to \$21.03. That's even been the case in Canada's most resource-rich market. "The majority of Albertans don't feel they're benefiting from the boom," says Dawn Gibson, research director with the Parliament Inquiry at the University of Alberta. "The growth hasn't translated into real income growth for families. The bulk of that money has gone into corporate equity."

When you ask Canadians, they certainly don't feel like they're better off than usual.

the south economy. Quite the opposite. Two years after poll taxes Alberta's, especially those in Calgary, find their living standards have deteriorated over the last five years. Long years of fast-track, massive service in restaurants and brutal competition among talk-back garbage scavenging. Similar results came out of other cities. A study just released by the Canada West Foundation found people in several major cities feel their quality of life has either stayed the same or worsened since 2001, with 64 per cent in Vancouver and nearly 70 per cent in Toronto saying they're

no better off. "Reversals of a good thing can be just as bad as not enough," says Craig Alexander, deputy chief economist at TD Economics. "In an ideal world where you want a strong economy that is growing at a good pace, that's creating lots of jobs, but isn't creating its own set of problems."

For now, the economy is creating plenty of jobs. Soaring demand for commodities is the driving force behind Canada's economic miracle, earning billions for the country's exploration companies and stuffing government coffers in the West. For everyone else, though, the benefits are sketched in higher prices. Take, for instance, record oil prices. Big hands and oil executives may be rolling

**Surg
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...er thinks the new low oil prices
for crude, but for most
consumers that gas means
more pain at the pumps. The
average price of a litre of gas
in Ontario recently topped
\$1.15, according to MJM & Associates in
Calgary, up 72¢ per cent from five years ago.
Canadian drivers haven't found a quote as bad
as their counterparts in the United States.
The high Canadian dollar has meant gasoline
prices have risen as just half the rate as in the
U.S., according to a recent report by Stat-
istics Canada. But that comes as a cold comfort
for those who've seen the cost of commuting
 skyrocket over the past three years.

Driven by rising commodity prices, "gasoline and electricity rates have gone up way faster than inflation and incomes," says Jeffrey Gande, a professor with the Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario. Those are the things people are upset for.

FULL / PART TIME
KITCHEN HELP
COMPETITIVE WAGES
PLUS 1 FREE PIZZA PER SHIFT
FLEXIBLE HOURS

Perhaps the greatest threat to our economic health is the extreme shortage of labour.

of their products, the E3000 III up. A survey by Loyal LifePage recently found a quarter of California cottage-owners are cutting back on the number of cigarettes their vacation homes because of pump prices, while many are thinking of getting rid of their cottages altogether or should the cost of a tank of gas continue to rise.

Meanwhile, higher strategy costs are costly

Surging energy prices have driven up the cost of driving, heating, and groceries too.

ing up to us at the dinner table too, as the cost of transporting feed gets passed along to grocery consumers. As oil prices soar, alternative fuels like ethanol, made from wheat and corn, look more attractive. As new ethanol distilleries come online, that is driving up the price of the ingredients of your Corn Flakes and bread.

It's the same story across the board with other commodities. Shopped for a gold ring lately? Canadian gold miners have seen the price of the shiny metal slump 140 per cent since 2008, and producers have passed some of that cost on to consumers. Concrete may lack the lustre of gold, but with China and India furiously building bridges and overpasses, analysts suggest they've given Canadian producers a boost that also drives up the cost of those buildings and renovations. And anyone who has tried to hire a contractor in major cities has seen first-hand what the building boom has done for construction costs. "It's everywhere, but it's higher," says a contractor in Vancouver. "I've had to fork out more cash, for everything from copper piping up to the kitchen sink." We're all paying more for countless steel bolts that

would have a few years ago," says Robert Fauriol, the director of Canadian Economic Forecasting Services for the Milton, Ont.-based Centre for Special Economics.

"Those people who are renovating are going to be paying an awful lot more today than they would have a number of years ago because a lot of those materials have gone up in price and the demand for labour in that sector is so hot. Makes me wonder why I'm renovating my kitchen right now."

But the soil being pulled out of the ground

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only part of what's driving the Canadian economy. The other big factor is what we call the building boom of it. From coast to coast, the real estate market has seen unprecedented growth over the last six years. Their led to all sorts of unsustainable prices. For instance, a 10-story apartment in Vancouver's West End with drop-top siding and beamed-up windows recently went on the market for \$1 million. And while Calgary had converted the market on average one building went last year, now it's Saskatchewan's turn. One 1,200 sq ft bungalow in the north end of Saskatoon recently sold at \$179,900. After just three days and 21 rapid-fire bids, it sold for \$209,000. "The Saskatchewan market has performed better than it ever has, if you consider the rates and ever prices as a good thing," says Norm Fisher, a broker with Royal LePage.

But even though property values have risen, that doesn't mean California has owners necessarily feel any richer. For one thing, who is in a house today that wasn't in a rising market and that means they're house-rich, but they can't immediately access that money," says Paul Somerville, associate professor of urban economics at Stanford School of Business at the University of British Columbia. Homeowners can borrow against the equity in their home if they have it, but that just means sleeping on even larger mountains of debt. "That means they can't move up the housing ladder,"

Why those people hoping to buy their first home? Because the way drivers are feeling doesn't mean when watching positive prices are higher, today's exploding housing market is causing us to lose perspective. Homebuyers are looking for the "perfect" house. "Even if you're not a good investor, you're still going to want to make sure you're not buying a house that's going to be a real pain," says Brian Clarke, an associate with the Canada West Foundation. Just look at Royal Bank's Canada's housing affordability index, which measures the share of household income taken up by home ownership costs, and adding maintenance, property taxes, and you'll see just how out of reach a new home is in some parts of the country. Homebuyers have gotten steadily less affordable everywhere since 2004, and it's not just in the big cities. In fact, the index is at a 10-year low in half of household income, while Vancouverites look over as much as three quarters of their earnings to own and maintain a house.

No wonder a recent Leger Marketing poll of accidents in Calgary, where home ownership costs as a share of household income has soared 50 per cent in the last year alone, shows eight out of 10 people feel the boom has made home ownership more difficult. Many fully employed Calgarians have been forced to live in homeless shelters because soaring real estate prices and manufacturing

Shareholders of the library, or having rights into the ga-go real estate boom in by assuming a huge debt, seeking up whatever spare money they have. And with increasingly low interest rates, people in this country have been piling it on like never before, kicking up a total of nearly \$1 trillion in personal debt, up nearly 90 per cent from a decade ago. Mortgage accounts for roughly two-thirds of this amount. "These are staggering on the radio—multiplies your loans, go to a 40 year mortgage with low, low rates—they're just buying people to get in right up to their eyeballs," says Ron Garcia, a real

page consultant in Burlington, Ont., who operates Americanation.com. "People will have these mortgages hanging over their heads into retirement. It's ludicrous."

But the dirt chevroners aren't the only ones who have thrown up their hands in the air, and that is putting the question on people, says credit counsellor Scott Harnish, president of the Vancouver-based Credit Counselling Society, which serves the four western provinces. Says demand for counselling services are up 20 per cent over last year. "Now that the real estate market is not quite as active, people are saying, 'Wait a minute, I've got all this debt. I have to refinance,'" he says. "With rates progressively rising, people are thinking, 'We shot our money straight in to keep up.' And now experts are telling us to be charging the crushing rates they did in the 1980s, when some mortgage rates topped 20 per cent a year." But the Bank of Canada is expected to jack rates again next month to cool the overheating economy and reduce the strident housing boom.

And while the soaring dollar has paid off in a big way for Canadian travellers, any savings on that weekend getaway to Vegas are swallowed up by the high prices that consumers are paying for many of our goods. Because Canadians spend considerably more than Americans do on a wide range of products. A couple of weeks ago, for instance, Chicago

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1990	\$10	And it doesn't end there.
1999	\$159.99	Any of organic queen sized sheets at Pottery Barn Stores in the States will be \$159.99 (or C1221 86). At Pottery Barn Canada it totals for \$279. With Mattresses \$90 and boxes of Calumet Nylon Glasses for Women in America comes for \$159.96 (or C139 47). The same bottle at Wal-Mart Canada is \$129.
1996	\$12	
1994	\$22	
1995	\$4.79	
1993	\$30	
1990	\$10	

And a set of "tool handle" grit tools at Williams-Songess are U866 (CIV) 69, has 99 north of the border.

The price gap isn't new, as any used-book or magazine collector will tell you. But few of us paid much attention when the dollar was in free fall. The price difference didn't seem so far-fetched when we were carrying ads over leaves on our pockets. But now, with the dollar having reached a 30-year high, many observers such as Linage Cui, president of the Consumers' Association of Canada, are wondering when it's going to finally be reflected in the price of our goods.

Now for the really bad news:
"It can take up to two years to

see the impact of a stronger currency. Avery Sheale M, a senior economist, points out that the Canadian U.S. retailers purchased many inventory months before the yen rises, and likely converted the dollars at a higher exchange rate of the strong dollar on clothes, might not look as good as it

There are lots of cosmic money prizes are higher on the list of the lottery may have made people who had where the lottery was held, the operating costs, higher taxes and the prizes are all unfortunates for the same goods than expensive as 18 per cent improvement in the dollar," says Shandell, "doesn't price of an imported good by anything, some retailers, how some behavior is somewhat taking this opportunity to see margins on imported goods.

This gap extends to big ticket items. A study last year by Deloitte Consultants found that the new car in Canada, when priced for the currency rate, was less than here than in the U.S. A analyst Deloitte's DesRosiers, it is for fluctuations in the exchange rate in the last price. "[Manufacturers] suggest that prices are not changed once a year," he says. "Manufacturers are not."

The fact is, more car power is welcome down in Canada, any car. For instance, the Lexus LS400 can drive it off a lot (it for USA\$465,995 in Canadian dollars). A Lexus model in Canada is listed



The costs of owning a home are becoming less and less affordable in major cities

those Nichols, personal financial planning and distribution for TPL, which distributes Lewin, says responding to discussions in the rate only will be current customers on available pricing assistance," says Nichols. "we plan for our market, you wonder what that cost about."

Others all the bundles involved
advice buy-outs in the U.S., we're
stock shopping for which with
borders. Getting a new range like
the Peace Bridge is a lot more
than taking a new winter coat or
have been in Canada from May
the high dollar, except many Ca-
put aside their minor fears and
increased purchasing power, fill
lack of U.S. quarterly results at all
Since the early '90s. They only
time—and go by shopping only
It's all the nature of coping with
But before we get too carried

the firm's something important: to be able to pay its bills. Among economists may not be all that important, but the alternative is for just ask the people lined up at the doors in Windsor, Ont. Layoffs do not have the same immediate effect on the city as the highest unemployment in the country. Economists worry that many sectors are struggling, a

ing else. Whether it is a sobering reminder of what life is like in a downturn. Unfortunately if and when things go bad, Canadians are likely to get smacked with a lot of the same problems they face today, but without the benefit of job security that a boom affords.

The economy is already showing signs of slower growth. Commodity prices are easing, which will cut into the earnings of the resource sector. Meanwhile, the high dollar has left many manufacturers holding on by their fingernails. As a result, Alexander expects the stock market to take a breather. "We're on the verge for a period of more subdued profit growth," he says. Such a slowdown will come as a shock to investors who have come to rely on double-digit gains to sustain their lifestyles in the face of rising prices.

Even Alberta, our economic star, may be in line for a substantial correction. Gartner predicts Alberta's economy is set to slow from last year's 4.1 percent to just 2.5 percent growth in a state "marred by high inflation and a high unemployment rate." But a soft landing is by no means guaranteed. The commodity market is susceptible to global conditions—a major slowdown in China or India would likely put our economy on ice.

Above all, it's Canada's tight labour market that has many economists most worried for the country's well-being. "It's not necessarily ideal," says Potholakis. "We've had far more strong employment growth in our own good. At this rate, we're going to run out of employable people, and basically cause a wage-price run problem." He claims that the labour shortage has already taken toll on some sectors. Companies in the Calgary oil patch are seeking back their expatriates because labour costs are too high. Several dentists have had to fly overseas from Fort McMurray to other parts of the province to cover shifts. "It's become unmanageable," says Potholakis. "Given the price of oil these days that's a pretty serious statement."

The fear among economists is that the hangover from the wild party of the last five years will last well into the next downturn, even as inflation continues to take a bite out of our purchasing power. Canadians may not have seen any real income gains during the boom, but try negotiating for a raise during a slowdown. What we may soon learn is, the only thing worse than a boom is a bust. ■



The Canadian dollar is almost at par with the U.S. greenback and yet still we pay more for cars, shoes, even electronics

Task-handle grill tools	Williams-Sonoma	\$250.00	1,579
Sony Cyber-shot DSC TX30R	Sony.com/Sony.co	\$399.99	\$499.99
Home Season 2	Amazon.com/Amazon.co	\$66.99	\$87.49
Paul Hays (CD)		\$3.69	\$2.99
Play! Eyeglass sunglasses	Sunglass Hut	\$155	\$200
Lexus		\$61,000	\$86,400
Catbow Hot Your golf balls		\$39.99	\$48.95
Deeds Sporting Goods/Golf Town			
Cygnus shirt with Aquard	Pollary Barn	\$189	\$279
Relaxed cotton cargo khaki	Banana Republic	\$99.50	\$80
Nike Jordan Retro 1	Champs Sports	\$108.99	\$159.99
Calvin Klein Obsession for Women (3.3 fl. oz.)	Walmart	\$30.96	\$12
The Time Traveler's Wife by A. Wringer	Amazon and Noble/Chapters	\$14	\$23
People magazine		\$3.99	\$4.79
Nikei Aquatic: Saphron		\$25	\$30
Italy Bookcase: IKEA		\$49.99	\$69

EMPLOYEE
OF THE
WEEK

THE KEYS TO MILITARY MISSION ARE MISSING
Someone in the Polish military contingent dispatched to Afghanistan has a lot of explaining to do. The 1,200 Polish troops are delaying deployment in the mountainous bordering Pakistan for a few weeks simply because someone lost the keys to the fleet of Humvee transport vehicles. The troops will have to wait until new keys can be found or made. Said a Polish defence ministry spokesman: "We had not expected the spare car keys to go missing."

think every parade in London like Lord Black on the stand the case becomes all about his testimony, and I personally think that he would not likely make a good witness. I think he'd be a very hard witness to confront, and he projects such a close sense of control that any able prosecutor would risk the thought of cross-examination.

MC: It may be that it won't impact at all, it may be a neutral, but if anything it helps the prosecution.

Macdonald: So, are you thinking guilty on all charges, guilty on some charges, or not guilty, if you were sitting in the jury box yourself?

MC: Guilty on some charges for three of the four defendants, and guilty on any charge for Mark Kipnis. I think they grew down on the non-competent, and I think that Conrad Black goes down on the obstruction charge. Kipnis would have to be guilty of engaging in a conspiracy by subterfuge, because there's not a shred of evidence that he benefited from any



Kipnis would have to be guilty of engaging in a conspiracy by subterfuge, because there's not a shred of evidence that he benefited from any of the allegedly fraudulent conduct.
—HUGH TOTTEN

of the allegedly fraudulent conduct. There's just nothing that ties Mark Kipnis to any of the criminal conduct in this case.

MC: I'm not guilty for all defendants on all counts. There's no defense on a motion in this case. I think the defense has established that it was perfectly proper for the seller to receive a non-competency and that there were two advantages for it and it was fairly common at the time.

MC: Mark Kipnis is acquitted on all charges. My sense is that the remaining defendants will likely be acquitted on all charges. If there are going to be convictions I tend to think it'll be Lord Black on the obstruction charge.

Macdonald: If you're a juror, do you view Black on obstruction of justice?

MC: If it's the juror myself? No, my sense is that of the significant charges the prosecution has not established that they were in fact illegal. There's a fact and the charges. In terms of the obstructive justice, that really comes on an independent point—what was Black doing? It is inoperable in two ways. And the burden of proof is criminal standard, which means that you have to exclude any other reasonable explanation. In my mind, the prosecution hasn't gotten there.

MC: On the mail fraud I believe Black will be convicted on at least some of the counts. I think the jury may well side up on the non-competency and may convict on some rather than others. On the perjury, I don't think they will convict. I don't think it's clear either. And because of that, also, I don't think the fresh evidence cases will stand. Blackcoming in a much more difficult case to convict on. I think it's going to be too hard for the government to establish. *Black and Adams*, I think, may be convicted along with Black. I don't believe Kipnis will be convicted.

Macdonald: What about obstruction of justice?

MC: I think the jury will convict Black on that. I think they're enough there that the jury would find that here's one place where Black's fingerprints are all over it.

MC: Black at play going down. The idea that he would walk everything. I think it's just virtually impossible that that would be the case. What he goes down on I think is everything except for the racketeering. I'm surprised they're even charging [racketeering] prosecutors rarely charge it because they almost never get convictions out of it.

The obstruction count, particularly for him, not looks horrible. A guy of his stature and his success level going his own business out of the building after having certainly had a look to that is hard to explain. On the fraud counts, it fits in the line of logic that a party engaged in a corporate transaction with a corporation is going to be making payments directly to an executive at the company, so it's hard to suspect an act. I don't think he's going to be able to get away with that, and I suspect others will face the same fate. I think what you're going to see are kind of criminal convictions for the rest of them and Conrad Black getting virtually everything guilty except for the racketeering.

MC: And just to add to this, I've watched these jurors and I know there's been a lot of commentary about "oh they're going to be in too complex." That's nonsense. These are good people, they're attentive, they're sharp on time, and I've put them really impressed with the juror.

MC: Right. Whatever the decision's going to be it's going to be a careful one, sensible one, it's not going to be arbitrary or based purely on emotion. ■



Black is clearly going down. The idea that he would walk on everything, I think it's just virtually impossible that that would be the case.
—KERRY KIRKE

MC: Mark Kipnis is going to be acquitted of everything. As to Lord Black, I agree with what some of the others and about the racketeering count. It is very difficult to get juror to convict on racketeering charges. I think the jury comes out as instruction of justice. I don't think the defense will be adequately able to explain why someone of Lord Black's stature and success level is taking his own losses on the face of a court. I think the remaining defendants have mostly tied their case and their chances on Lord Black, so I think they're going to be convicted along with Lord Black.

Macdonald: And as the fraud charge?

MC: I think there'll be convictions. **Macdonald:** Anything to add?

MC: One thing I would throw in there is that the judge in this case seems to have run the trial with a very competent and clear mind. This case did not descend into anything like the chaos which people were afraid it was going to.

MC: And just to add to this, I've watched these jurors and I know there's been a lot of commentary about "oh they're going to be in too complex." That's nonsense. These are good people, they're attentive, they're sharp on time, and I've put them really impressed with the juror.

MC: Right. Whatever the decision's going to be it's going to be a careful one, sensible one, it's not going to be arbitrary or based purely on emotion. ■

MENTION US IN YOUR MAGAZINE OR WE'LL SUE

The pop-funk Los Angeles hip-hop act KRS-One has settled its lawsuit against the gossip magazine *Us*. After *Us* Pressor Ross KRS-One lawsuit had filed the suit, claiming that *Us* suggested to mention him there when it reported on their "shocking arrest." The suit alleged that lack of coverage was costing KRS-One US\$100,000 a week. Ross and the magazine's chief of staff declined from *Us* to settle legal liability over a party of the state that *Us* allegedly never paid him.



WHO'S SUING WHOM



IT GETS WORSE: When temperatures go above 33°C, trains must reduce speeds

THE ICEMAN COMETH

London's high-tech fix for its blisteringly hot tube? Blocks of ice.

BY ROBERT MARCH LEE—Londoners are dreading the coming of an event that will make their daily lives a misery. It's not the public smoking ban that comes into effect on July 1, nor is it the 2012 London Olympic Games, although people don't like either very much. Rather, it's the onset of summer weather, which will routinely drive temperatures on the London Underground to levels where it would be illegal, under EU regulations, to transport livestock.

By comparison, beyond the barest use of deferring most of its passengers about their destination, everyone agrees the *London Underground* is almost blind. Despite its former chief executive, Robert Kilduff, headbashed the tube's performance as "bordering on disaster." The mayor of London, Sir Boris Johnson, has no control over the subway, but in reality is bound and gagged by a mishmash of public-private contracts covering its 251 stations, infrastructure, and one billion gleaming passengers crisscross each weekday.

One program for improving the tube's infrastructure is 16,000 days, or more than 17 years, behind schedule. Flooding is a growing problem. Ventilation and air quality are below standard. Worse than that is the heat. Last summer, temperatures on the tube were recorded as high as 41°C. It doesn't help that at temperatures above 33°C, main train axle speed is forced to be cut to one-half, due to track damage.

The strain that this program is forced to endure is being tested in a series of costly tests resembling a cake run—on wheels, except this cake must be transported above 31°C. It should be added, with as much efficiency as

possible, that cake bakes more frequently than some of the passengers on the London Underground.

In 2003, Meyer Livingston offered a \$200,000 prize for a sensible idea to cool the tube. Despite receiving 3,500 suggestions—ranging from placing frozen peas on top of carriages to spraying passengers with cool mist—the contest closed with the prize unclaimed. Instead, the mayor set up the \$50 million "cooling the tube" program. After two years' intricate study, several pub-

TUBE TEMPERATURES SOAR TO LEVELS WHERE IT WOULD BE ILLEGAL TO TRANSPORT LIVESTOCK

lished papers, and millions of pounds' expenditure, engineers within the London Underground and beyond from London and Manchester universities last week unveiled their latest scheme for cooling the tube—blocks of ice.

The London Underground engineer, Mark Gibby, described the idea of using ice for cooling as "pretty good idea being." It is also "pretty limited." The problem with most plans for cooling the tube is that refrigeration and air conditioning both generate heat—which would be trapped underground, defying their purpose.

The ice-cooling scheme would use "phase change" technology—essentially, using blocks of ice placed under the seats to cool passengers while the train is below ground, and re-

framing it while the train is on the surface. It is suitable only for those lines that "dip" from surface to underground at 20-minute intervals, such as the Piccadilly line, where the system will be in use next year. Black ice is a bit of a stretch, but being developed by the London Underground. Another scheme is being tested at Victoria station that cools air with water drawn from boreholes.

Despite the vast amounts of money being thrown at the problem, none of the measures is likely to work very well. The London Underground will continue advising passengers to carry drinking water during the hot season, when the sight of passengers dousing their heads has become commonplace. Even Gibby concedes: "We will make the train a little cooler with this technology, but we aren't 'cooling the hell' out."

Conditions underground have gone from bad to worse as London experiences the effects of global warming. A long-term worry is that average temperatures on the Underground are on a gradual increase, even in colder months. Already in early spring, at peak times and on some of the busiest routes, the temperatures have grown so uncomfortably hot. One explanation given for this is a gradual rise in the temperature of the earth surrounding the tunneling, another is that the deepest Underground lines have become "caverns the real sense" that do not discharge their accumulated heat.

Adding insult to heat ex-haustion has been a steady increase in cash fares, as the London railway attempts to close passenger cuts using cheap, low-cost, low-quality fares. A long-term strategy from London Underground to the Greater London Authority of 250 p, more than 50 p—this works out at 250 p, and most people simply walk.

All in all, the pleasures to be taken on a London Underground journey are few. One is the view of the Underground, a program to replace advertising with images of poetry that are changed seasonally. Appropriately enough, a Shakespearean poem has appeared on some carriages, perhaps in anticipation of the season. *Poor to move the heat of the sun. / Nor the summer winds' rage; / Thus thy world's heat last done, / I have art's power, and with thy wings, / Golden birds and girls all men's, / As chimney-sweepers, come to dust. ■*



VOICES IN MY HEAD TOLD ME TO KILL

The U.S. Air Force is experimenting with a "voice interface" which transmits voice commands to a computer. The idea would be a person up to one kilometer away to receive the voice of their friend, without a receiver device. The program would permit soldiers in the field to receive information surreptitiously during operations such as hostage rescue, and could even be used to confirm, disconfirm or drive the enemy mad.

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home

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on

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WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM HER FRIENDS

MUSIC

Irina Lazareanu is sweetly trying to explain why she can't sit down for the interview arranged by her New York agent. A car is sitting in the street, below her 20th-floor apartment to take her to a midtown Manhattan recording studio where Sean Lennon is waiting. The last five days have been grueling, she says. Thursday she was on the *Harpsters* shooting for *American Idol*, distinguishing only as a fashion model in the world between that and all the other vagaries for which the fashion photographer that night, June 8, the celebrated her 21st birthday, then traveled to Los Angeles for a fashion show with the very British publicist from *Another Magazine* before returning on the red eye. Sunday and Monday she was in the studio laying down vocal tracks for her debut album, *Some Place Along the Way*, which Lennon is producing. "I was recording until one in the morning," she says. "And I was so exhausted, it was a good thing."

For Lazareanu's time, there is a long list. Hollywood directors are throwing scripts her way. TV producers are bidding to build shows around her. Ralph Lauren asked her to design with him. Still, she wants to be someone doing, she says, in a role rap with a Coe musical hit: "You're Canadian." Born in Romania, Lazareanu emigrated to Canada at age five with her family and was raised in the Montreal suburb of St-Hubert. She was married: "It got" in the fall collections of the spring of 2006. The games model with the red hair, haunting eyes, pale skin and prominent nose spoke to a moment in time of shift. Her most recent industry offer: an audition to the featured Brazilian gladiator in that dominated the scene.

Now she's Irina, a one-name runway queen, walking that model pony trot for everyone from Alexander McQueen to Zac Posen. Last fall, Lazareanu walked her ways at a round 36 inches. Designers love her because she's up, says Cheryl Bowen, Lazareanu's New York agent. "After 60 shows, most girls are tired and grumpy and want to go home. Irina's dancing and singing. She's the consummate entertainer. You never see her complain. It's not in her genetic makeup."

It's telling of the fashion moment that Lazareanu's appeal lies in her ability to multitask. "She's a model for a new age," says Jeanne Baker, host of *Fashion Television*. "She could have walked out of a *Paul Poiret* studio

Supermodel Irina Lazareanu, pal of Kate Moss and Pete Doherty, is recording with Sean Lennon
BY ANNE KINGSTON

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or Chardonnay happening from the *Vice* Star's every one and she's very new too. It's strange quality." Lazareanu's mutable essence has made her the poster girl for a wide range of brands—Just Cavalli, Mulberry, Anne Mallon, Hugo Boss, Bulgari and Chanel.

Lazareanu's off-the-runway style—eclectic mix of dandy menswear, vintage and rocker chic inspired by '60s and '70s London—is equally influential. As a Chanel party in May, Lazareanu, dressed in a dark overcoat and red boots, was photographed next to Lindsay Lohan, the actress looked like an average plastic-influenced doll by comparison. *News* editor Anna Wintour is devoting a big spread to the model in the September issue, the contents of which remain hush-hush. Ralph Lauren told Lazareanu, who didn't have time to help her design, that she reminded him of Diane Keaton, a somewhat self-complimentary guess that he owed her for *Weekend Update* 1977 movie *Anna Mall*. Her following in Japan and Korea is so wild, *News* reports, that Kims the wear offstage tell our readers.

The fact Lazareanu reads *Vergil* and writes poetry is a notepad she carries everywhere but not just announced in secondary where most fashion literary star is Naomi Campbell, author of the photographer novel *Love*. "She's amazing, a Renaissance woman," Baker says of Irina. Modeling is not an "it's a job," like working at McDonald's," Lazareanu says. "It's when you want to be in that women worked for six months on a dress that they want to do. It's not about you. I'm just waiting, one foot in front of the other."

The William Blake quoting model once linked to the somewhat shady drug-addicted musician Pete Doherty quickly assumed more status. "Irina is the Faber-Castell of her time," says Karl Lagerfeld of Chanel via e-mail, referring to the dark-haired French fashion star and his signature to many in *Comme des Garçons* designs, and along with Karl Lagerfeld has also called her a "son of Coco Chanel and Anna de Noailles," the French illumination painter and influential. His new collection, *Pure Monte Carlo*, was designed specifically with Lazareanu in mind.

Lazareanu's ambitions have always veered toward the artistic. At 11, she went to London to study ballet until she was denied by a broken knee. At age 15, she met Doherty, who had just formed the band the Libertines. "We looked alike," she says. "It was almost drinky. He had bangs. I had bangs." The two connected over writers—Leonard Cohen, Oscar Wilde, Miquelangelo. They became lovers and musical collaborators. The summer of 2004 she toured with Doherty's band, the Libertines, in the popular "Shantelle

STYLING: AND SO, NEW PHOTOGRAPHY: CORTIS

LAZAREANU off the runway: Hollywood directors are throwing scripts her way. **Ralph Lauren** wants to design with her



SEAN LENNON and SUZANNE LAZZARINI at an infatue to Chanel designer Karl Lagerfeld, (below) with former boyfriend Neil DeMara

grapher Steven Meisel launched her career. Lazzarini remains close (both DeMara and Moss, who she calls "a sister," asked her to promote her recently released clothing collection for British fashion store Topshop.) Yet she expresses frustration with the media's fixation on the connection. She has moved on, co-writing an acclaimed score for the 2001 film *The Passenger*, directed by the Canadian photographer François Regier, her former boyfriend. But then's little doubt her baby-sitter's insider cred leads into the buzz surrounding her upcoming CD, due for a fall release. So does her status in the fashion world. The music-fashion symbiosis is acute these days, with Sean "Diddy" Combs, Gwen Stefani, Madonna and Jennifer Lopez all designing clothing lines. This week it was announced that DeMara and Moss will separately grace Roberto Cavalli's men's and women's fall ad campaigns.

Those who have heard Lazzarini's music call it soft, lyrical, folk. Her musical references track back to Joni Mitchell, Lou Reed, Joan Baez, Leonard Cohen and Neil Young. She admits the first few choruses of Bob Dylan's *A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall*, her favorite song. "It's a dialogue in those parts," she says. "It changed my life." She was 9 the first time she heard it.

She is protective of the collaborative nature of the musical process. An interview at the studio is out of the question, she says firmly. She doesn't want to disrupt her band. Plus Lazzarini is off-journalism right now, she says. "Sean's hypersensitive after the press took something his mom said out of proportion." The two have been friends for years.

The album is like a book, she explains, each song a chapter. She shares the lyrics of *The Passenger*, a song about walking and falling, quoting Wilde about how wisdom is found in pain. She speaks from experience. "I've made some bad decisions—I've fallen a couple of times but got up," she says. Another song, *Dead Man Walking*, references Armani and her recent work with Amnesty International.

Lazzarini is a musician's insider. Nick Jones, formerly of the Clash, is teaching her to play guitar. Joni Mitchell exposed artists in her lyrics. ("Lazzarini quotes Mitchell on why she stopped making records.") "They took the music out of music, now there's just the click," Car Power will be dropping by the studio next week. "She is really cool," Lazzarini cautions. "So generous."

As for the future, the world is her oyster, guided by the club, says her agent Bowen, who, as agents will, predicts a major breakout

"Irina is that rarest-of-rare model who will go down in history like the Devigons," Jennie Baker predicts. "Will she be modeling in another five years? Likely not. Three years from now she won't be as hot but I don't worry about her the way I worry about some of the others." Models don't have careers that last 20 years any more like the Claudia Schiffer or Linda Evangelista, says Lazzarini. Her name will extend her career, he believes. "She will be seen as a personality, a star more than just a model."

What will sustain Lazzarini, say some, is her gift for intimacy. "I have a special relationship with her," says Baker, "but maybe she's the kind of girl who makes everybody feel that." After a day in the studio, back at home after 11, she is weary but willing to field questions over the phone. "Stay in Canada," she says on her way to sleep. And then she hangs up. ■

MCCLENNAN'S BESTSELLERS COMPILED BY BRIAN DEWANE

Fiction

- 1 **A THOUSAND SPLENDID DAYS** 10/3
by Michael Chabon
- 2 **DINKYDANDY** by Michael Ondaatje 3/66
- 3 **THE DUSTY** by William Smith 3/43
- 4 **THE CHILDREN OF HURIN** 3/43
by J.R.R. Tolkien
- 5 **RANIT** by Chuck Palahniuk 3/43
- 6 **ON CRENSHAW BEACH** 3/43
by Ian McEwan
- 7 **THE OVERLORDS** by Michael Connelly 3/43
- 8 **THE YOSHIDA POLICE** by Michael Chabon 3/43
- 9 **THE GOOD HUSBAND OF TERRA DRIVE** 3/43
by Alexander McCall Smith
- 10 **THE LADIES' LENDING LIBRARY** 3/43
by Janice Radtke

Non-fiction

- 1 **GOOD IS NOT GREAT** 10/3
by Christopher Hitchens
- 2 **THE SECRET** by Shonda Rhimes 3/43
- 3 **LOVE WHY SOON** 3/43
by Norman Mailer
- 4 **THE BRAIN THAT CHANGES ITSELF** by Norman Doidge 3/43
- 5 **ANIMAL VEGETABLE, MIRACLES** by Barbara K. Reynolds 3/43
- 6 **THE WILD, WILD, WILD** by David Shields 3/43
- 7 **THE CATCH** by Michelle Angier 3/43
- 8 **THE ABANDONED REASON** by Al Gore 3/43
- 9 **AGAINST THE CURRENT** by Linda D. Ward 3/43
- 10 **TRAVELS WITH HERODOTUS** 3/43
by Byzantine Herodotus

LAST WEEK'S BESTSELLERS (RANKED)

EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE. EXTRAORDINARY COVERAGE.



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GET INSIDE WEEK AFTER WEEK

ROGERS

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VIVALDI, STRAUSS, BACH, BEETHOVEN. The computerland classics have brought in new listeners who don't buy CDs and DVDs

Bach isn't dead, he's relocating

A report on digital downloads finds that the fastest-growing music genre is classical

BY JAIMIE E. WEINMAN • What kind of music is about to dominate the online world? It's not country music, or even hip-hop. Earlier this year, the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI) published a report on the impact of digital downloads, and found that in 2006, "Classical music was the fastest-growing music genre in the U.S., growing by 23 per cent." There have been exceptional digital sales on particular classical titles. The death of classical recording has been announced to often that this just year brought a book on the subject, Norman Lebrecht's *The Life and Death of Classical Music*. But maybe classical music isn't dying, just relocating to the Internet.

The classical record industry was built on the old fashioned disc format: whether 78s, LPs or CDs, classical buyers wanted solid items that they could take home and show off. But now, as the IFPI's report indicates, an increasing number of listeners get their fix as they get their rock from iTunes and other download online sites. Able, and no sharing, sites have become as active for great songs and instrumentalists of the past, when the Great Russian cello Mstislav Rostropovich died earlier this year, his online obituarist was almost as loud as black and white YouTube clips of Rostropovich making music.

None of this means that the Internet is dismantling the classics at the joints. Mark Berry, publisher for the classical record store pay Naxos of America, points out that "80 per cent or more of our business is still CDs and DVDs, and that's still true for the industry as a whole." But the computerized classics have brought in new listeners who don't buy CDs and DVDs or attend classical concerts, young people whose taste in music may not

be "classical" in the usual sense. Many of the recordings being downloaded are "cross-genre" recordings mixing elements of classical and pop, like Andrea Bocelli, who is considered "classical" mostly because he's Italian.

The Internet may also be allowing these downloaders to explore great and unfamiliar music. "We get far too many emails," Berry says. "We had an album called *The Very Best of Mozart* and 65 per cent of them were sold online. On the other hand, some of the fringe contemporary solo albums compared to CD. People who want to try an obscure composer can download one or two tracks and see if they like it." These people might never have gone to the trouble of buying a CD of unfamiliar music, but they're happy to use the Internet as get acquainted to Mozart.

Yet even as these composers pursue this market of young, casual Web surfers, they risk alienating the more conservative who are still buying CDs and DVDs. One problem is that the Internet has traditionally offered inferior sound quality, and classical music buyers tend to be audiophiles (such strong taste as Herbie, around several and digital now very popular with classical collectors long before they caught on in the world of pop). You have still others who want to listen to a stereo, and many digital downloaders are frustrated with a layer of copy protection

that prevents piracy but also denies them the sound. Pay fans can put up with that, but classical fans can't. "It's an older demographic," says Eric Fiedler, president of the online classical music retailer Arkivium.com. "When they listen to music, they listen on stereo systems, not on an iPod or a mobile device. So they're going to notice the sound quality."

There are other reasons why older Mozart fans may not want to adapt to the iPod era. Classical music collectors not only like good sound, they buy records as a precious pastime, not music, but notes, lyrics and cover art. In the past, some labels even got away with charging higher prices for more attractive covers and elaborate booklets. When Fiedler launched the "ArkivCD" program to make out-of-print compact discs available on demand, he found that his customers insisted on having photographs and essays included with the discs, even if they had to pay more to get them. "It's about getting involved with the music; these things become a must to learn about what you're listening to."

Still, companies can't resist trying to build on the new fast-growing online market. EMI, one of the oldest classical companies, EMI announced that it will drop the copy-protecting digital rights management (DRM) allowing classical recordings to be downloaded in better quality (but at a higher price). That's the plan for classical recording companies: finding new ways to sell music online, while CD and DVD buyers are left about 10



THE WHITE STRIPES... HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY
Ill-willed / Icky thump / What's that? / Little drunk on a wagon to Mexico? / Ah well / What a clump / Well my head got a bump / When I hit it on the rock / Rocked around / Looking down / Crease and said / "Honey a dead" / An expanded / I said / "Gimme a drink a walk, I'm gonna sing around the cello" / And I don't need a microphone - icky thump from the White Stripes' new album of the same name

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BIG TENT: Stops on the road trip include churches that boast waterfalls and coffee shops, and congregations on the order of 20,000

It's Take-an-Atheist-to-Church day

Jim the evangelist and Casper the unbeliever hit the road in a magical mystery sacred tour

BY BRIAN KETNER • Like all strokes of genius, it was a simple idea, really. Given the amount of time, money and talent-consuming American Christians devote to the common dream of what keeps the "lost"—the third of adults who do not regularly attend one of the nation's 315,000 churches—from returning to the fold, Seattle evangelist pastor Jim Henderson wondered, why not just ask? So he did, hiring atheist friend Matt Casper, a San Diego copywriter and gay-straightener in a band called Hell Yeah!, to be his one-man focus group. Pastor and rocker would visit 13 churches, and Casper would report on what he found: attitudes, indifference or rejection about each. The result is Henderson's scribbled-up *Jim & Casper Go to Church* (R.G. Mitchell), a road-trip book with a difference—and an eye-opening account of two suburbs in genuine dialogue.

Stops on the tour include some of America's best-known churches. California's Saddleback was founded by Pastor Rick Warren, author of *The Purpose Driven Life*, and currently attracts some 20,000 attendees weekly. Near Chicago, Willow Creek boasts a wine cellar, bookstore, restaurant and coffee shop. It, too, has a congregation of 20,000, and its weekly Sunday school leads the church to use a fingerprint scanner to track members. But Houston's Lakewood, with a 40,000-strong Rock attends services in the former Compaq Centre—once the arena home of the NBA's Houston Rockets—boasts both for size. The megachurches all have Casper cold, because of who he acts as a status on self-proclaimed over-helpful evangelist: "I didn't hear anything but I haven't heard Terry Robb say better."

The exchanges between Casper and Hen-

derson were not as mutually encouraging as one might have been. For most of his four decades as an active Christian, Henderson, 56, has been trying to reach outside his Pentecostal roots, establishing hard-won relationships with members of other evangelical traditions and "to and behold, even Catholics." (His wife, Ruth, is, in fact, a former nuns' day out while she was still in the convent, but that story, Henderson says, "has to wait for the next book.") While Henderson was intrigued and, on occasion, startled by some of his congregation's comments—"Blood, blood, blood all the time when you're under 10,000 megawatts with your hair perfectly curled and carefully grooming the whole 'bleached hair' and your downy little creases"—the results don't come to bawling churchills.

And 37-year-old Casper is one religiously friendly atheist. He once worked for a Christian marketing company and he has actual Christian friends, including the drummer in his band, a music-Casper admires for his fully-inspired social activism. Casper's politics aren't obvious, and on their eighth church visit, he does broach what is probably the greatest source of secular hostility in contemporary America. "In far too many cases, saying you're a Christian means you're a Republican, at least to outsiders," he says. "If I were a Christian I'd be furious that those poli-

tics"—the Bush administration—"dared to mix with themselves with Christianity." That comment came in Portland, Ore., inside an "emerging" church, after Henderson explains to Casper that the little-known emerging churches seek to bring reason against church entanglement with the politics and powers of this world. Their young evangelists are conservative in their theology, but tend to be spiritual.

That's deadly as a approach that runs Henderson out, and for that reason Jim & Casper reads at times as an updated version of an old literary trope. Casper is the Noble Savage, the mainly upright outsider who gets to mouth all of Henderson's out-lashed criticisms of conventional evangelical Christianity. (They visit six churches outside the Pentecostal tradition and only one non-sect church within it, Chicago's white-bread First Presbyterian. Casper the friendly atheist finds it especially attractive—he rather said to sing in a similar church—but Henderson thought it disappointing, its "wood paneling and formal hymns making it feel more like an English drawing lodge than a church.")

But there's genuine and moving success. For have two Casper's (unusually) when the Spirit "arrives" workbooks (at times completely out of consciousness), and Henderson's despair when his friend critiques the Christian practices Henderson doesn't hold dear, are honestly discussed—and vital first steps in the behavior shift or dialogue they seek. M



FINALLY, A BOOK ABOUT... **ODGBALL (PLAYERS)**

(Baseball's offshoot) (Chicago), by former Montreal Expos pitcher Bill "Babe" Brown. Late and writer, Jim Brown, whose not a Denver left and to modern, cookie-cutter athlete. Brown's athlete—perhaps for doing jobs on the mound—known world. Their Bill Brown, an ump who sang his life, and pitcher-philosopher Dan Gassmanberry. "He's a pitcher, he's losing his faith." Gassmanberry said. "Since I don't have one, the only thing I have to fear is fear itself."



IF SOMEONE is offering you wild for six or seven dollars a pound, says one chef, "that should set off the alarm bells right away."

Where'd that salmon come from?

Wild is best (and healthiest). Some farms are better than others: what you need to know.

BY SARAH CHAFMAN • When it comes to the food chain, no one is more glibble than the consumer. This is especially true for salmon buyers, where making an informed decision is as crucial as choosing a petunia. Salmon, like most fish, changes hands many times before arriving at the fishmonger's, which makes it so hard to determine where it came from. Does that fillet's deep red hue come from a natural diet of krill and other microalgae, or from synthetic dyes administered as a fish farm to make a pink-fleshed harvest look more appetizing? And if they were farmed, did they come from the much-maligned open net operations that may soon be banned in British Columbia?

Two years ago the New York Times employed "wild" salmon bought from eight different fishmongers. The turned out to be farmed. No wonder wild salmon moves quickly. When the season for fresh catches comes into full swing each June, chefs and purchasers rush onto their suppliers to get the first and the best—caught from Alaska's Copper River or at C's (aka Skowen). People pay up to \$30 a pound (compared to \$16 a pound for your average supermarket fillet). When Josh Krogger, executive chef and co-owner of Toronto's Scaramouche, put Copper River sockeye on the menu recently, he ran out by 8:30 p.m.

Why all the fuss? For starters, wild fish usually tastes like salmon, unlike the fatty farmed fillets we've become accustomed to "they taste like salmon," says Josh Clark, the Vancouver chef-own-restaurant who's dropped wild farmed Atlantic cod fifteen years ago, around the same time he stopped serving it at C's restaurant.

As is often the case with food, eating better tasting salmon is generally better for you.

fewer PCBs and dioxins, and no antibiotics. It's also better for the environment. Wild caught Pacific salmon is carefully managed to conserve existing populations. And unlike most methods of aquaculture, fishing wild doesn't destroy habitat.

But is there enough wild salmon to go around? Even the most dedicated conservationists have to admit aquaculture is here to stay. Farming itself isn't necessarily bad, just the way it is currently practiced. At most are the open nets that most West Coast farms use, and the Atlantic species that swim in them. (Some 10 percent of B.C.'s farmed salmon is Atlantic.) Since 1985, over a million salmon have been reported lost—and then found, competing with wild salmon for habitat and eating the Pacific's young. The farms also produce tons of waste, which destroys natural habitats. Plus fish can flee net pens or escape from pens, releasing wild salmon as they migrate past the nets.

Some farms are better than others. Creative Salmon has tried to mitigate its impact by raising Pacific species in lower densities. It also avoids the use of antibiotics and other drugs to manage the sea lice. But while the naturally raised fish taste better—and are certainly lower impact than those from some operations—they, like other open net farms, have failed to meet organic certification.

Opportunities to open net raised a fever-

ish patch last month, when a provincial legislative committee recommended B.C. ban open net farming and switch to closed-circulation technology. Many salmon farmers were alarmed, claiming the recommendations were not economically feasible. Nevertheless, Jay Rucklin, a marine conservationist at the David Suzuki Foundation, can smile off a number of B.C. farms that use simple recirculating closed-circulation systems over the new year's eve. The largest project, AgriMarine, experts to be raising a million pounds in floating concrete containers by this fall. Bob Clark points out that C's sister restaurant, Biscuit Grill, already serves the mini-salmon (they are only one or two pounds) from a land-based container farm. Using the larger closed systems are up and running, wild salmon is a better—and tastier—alternative to the farmed stuff. The problem, of course, is how to encourage actually buying wild. The first clue is the price. "If someone is offering you wild for six or seven dollars a pound, that should set off the alarm bells," says Krogger.

Of the five native Pacific salmon species that are fished in Canada, wild sockeye are the easiest to buy, because their color is deeper red than most farmed Atlantic. King (aka a chinook), on the other hand, looks identical to farmed Atlantic. Even Clark can't tell the difference until he cooks it. "You really have to trust your fishmonger," he says. "Once a salmon is filleted and skinned, the games begin." ■



TODAY'S SPECIAL... VIAGRA-FED OYSTERS

George Jay of Sydney, Australia, has been leading oysters the policy-environmenting drug, although his male fillet has ordered him to stop eating the wild Viagra. Oysters are believed to act as aphrodisiacs and Viagra, a marketing executive, says he's found them Viagra along with magnesium, zinc, and potassium increases their size and potency. Jay has received calls of interest from around the world and has 10 million orders in cultivation.



HOME SWEET HOME: They're cheaper and more energy efficient, but it's hard to fit all that square furniture in a round house

Hey it's good to be back dome again

Once a counterculture trend, geodesic domes are making a comeback on main street

BY KATE LUKAS • Michael Uymahoe was first exposed to the geodesic dome as a teenager at Biggs' Winery in Montreal. He remembers riding the escalator—40 ft, then the long exit in the world—through the United States pavilion, a giant globe designed by visionary inventor Buckminster Fuller and architect Shoji Sado. "It was big and spacious," Uymahoe recalls of the 20-story structure. "That kind of shape just has an attraction for me. It's like when you're on the ground, and look up at the stars."

Forty years later, Fuller's famous dome houses Montreal's Bluebird, an environmental museum. And Uymahoe, now 34, has a dome of his own—a 3,000-sq.-foot home on 20 wooded hectares outside Peterborough, Ont. "One, near Georgian Bay. I thought it would be interesting to live in a round house," he says.

Uymahoe's not alone. First popularized in the 1950s by Fuller's futuristic designs, geodesic domes "started more as a counterculture approach to housing," says Robert Singer, president of Timberline Geodesics, a dome manufacturer based in Berkeley, Calif. Today, dome homes are increasingly mainstream—Singer's client range from retired couples to young families just starting out. "People are installing all the comfort features you would find in any kind of house, whether that's the high end kitchen, Jacuzzi tubs, or media rooms," Singer says.

Dennis Johnson, founder of Natural Spaces Domes in North Branch, Minn., has seen his production decline in the last several years. Of the 40 or so structures his company produces annually, roughly one in six is destined for Canada. Dome dwellers claim round houses are

superior to square ones for many reasons. Even the price—a dome might typically cost 10 to 15 percent less than a box house of the same size, Singer says—is an energy efficiency. Dick Spitzer hosts his three-story, 2,600-sq.-foot dome home in British Columbia's Okanagan Valley "with a space heater the equivalent of a backyard barbecue. That's all year round," he says. The house's round shape naturally circulates warm or cool air, he explains. "They're just wonderful things," declares Spencer, who owns DesertGlobe Geodesic Domes in Sumnerland, B.C.

For some, the homes' unconventional look can also be a selling point. "I like the fact that my house is just startlingly different from the rest of the neighborhood," says Dan McKinnon, who lives in a dome in Center Valley, Pa., about an hour's drive north of Philadelphia. From the outside, his home resembles "a giant big top, or an observatory, or a golf ball," he admits—but once inside, "you get that feeling of equanimity. There's just something about being inside one of them that feels good. I can't describe it too much better than that."

But the structures have their critics, too. Back in the "dome glory days" of the late 1960s and early '70s, Lloyd Kahn built one after publishing the U.S. Pacific coast. In 1973, after publishing two books on the subject,

Domehead One and Domehead Two—Kahn abruptly became disenchanted with them. "I had a bestselling book on my hands, and I took it out of print because I realized they didn't work. I didn't want any more domes on my lawn," says Kahn, who once drove his own dome home. He lists all the many reasons for his frustration with domes, from their tendency to leak unless properly sealed—"they're all rook," he says—to the problem of furnishing a round space with rectangular beds and couches. However, Singer insists today's manufactured domes have come a long way from their predecessors.

Despite a surge in popularity, geodesic dome homes, says Singer, may never surpass single-story houses, no matter how many facets of media reports. "People are used to what's real, and so they're not going to be a part of the ordinary in their own homes, because it just does not look like a house," McKinnon says. Case in point: when the design team on Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me needed a moon base from which Dr. Evil could plot global annihilation, they called Timberline. The geodesic dome's space-age look was a perfect fit on the film set. "That was fun," Singer recalls.

Still, those who like them, like them a lot. "It's cool," says Uymahoe. "When I wake up lying back on my floor, and I look up at the ceiling, it's 20 feet high. I'm going, 'Wow!' In fact, I have dome houses in such a lot I know building one for my wife. ■"



WHAT THEY GOT FOR IT... ELVIS' GUN

A gold-plated gun once owned by Presley is expected to fetch \$150,000 at an auction this weekend. Chris Fox, Presley's gun dealer, says he's sold the 300-arc-henry P-38, in 1972. The gun is part of an auction of 100 authentic-related items, including a Bentley auto once used by Presley, the microphones Elvis used during his 1954 radio debut, and a bottle of Presley's prescription pills.

MARTINUS 'MARTIN' SPOOR

1970-2007

He was a surgeon on the cusp of a great career, and a recent convert to the church of hockey

Martinus "Martin" Spoor was born in Mekele, Ethiopia, on March 14, 1970, to John, a Dutch engineer, and Susan, a U.S. born stay-at-home mother. When Martin was a year old, John's work took the Spoor family to the Netherlands, where they lived on a tiny farming town outside Rotterdam. They, another year, arrived a year later. Martin was 7 when the family moved to Calgary, where his teachers wondered at the odd way he spoke. English words played into Dutch grammar, but it would not be long before he conquered scholarship.

Back at Martin's grandfather had been physicians, and at age eight Martin decided that he too would go into medicine. Dropping a Stoupe doll to medical gear, he insisted that the bangle be called "doctor." Meanwhile, he received correspondence training as the violin and, on the Alberta bush, fell into fishing, camping, sitting and sailing. When a cardiac surgeon acknowledged him that at Strathcona Woodman, a private school outside Calgary, Martin, then 12, narrowed his push on the heart. A gifted and eager student, he worked summer as a counselor at YMCA Camp Chief Wagon in the Rocky Mountains, shepherding youngsters through canoeing, hiking and camping trips. In Kingston, where he took his B.Sc. at Queen's, Martin spent some time earning money playing violin at Fort Henry, a military fortress turned tourist attraction. An accomplished classical musician, he could also wing up a jig, hammering forward on his fiddle. The Irish Whaler, as he was called, sat behind his back or standing on his head.

While studying medicine at the University of Calgary, he met Susan Terrell. Martin delighted in introducing Susan to the Rockies. They also shared eclectic tastes in music—Martin's collection was Mendelssohn alongside Green Day and Fleetwood Mac—and study trips to New Orleans synchronized with that city's Jazz Fest. The couple decided to marry during an Algonquin Park canoe trip a year after first meeting, they wed in the Rockies in 1996. Martin had meanwhile begun training as a cardiac surgeon at the University of Alberta. Cool and quiet—Martin still a lively man who never harmed and was rarely on time—he was the typical inner surgeon. Dr. Arvid Kozak, one of his instructors at the University of Alberta Hospital, did not at first know what to make of him. "Car-

diac surgeons are supposed to be a little aggressive. He was a very sort of shy-looking person." He soon changed his mind: Martin's soothing voice drew nearby the outward show of his equanimity, his race and color commanded a thin hand. Such traits made him a patient with respect with the very ability to communicate with patients. "Unusual—but that's what he was," Kozak says. He also possessed a fiery heart, self-deprecating wit, delivered to friends and colleagues in conversational snippets.

In 2001, Martin began fellowship at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. While balancing work, his studies and family life—despite their busy careers (Susan is a gastroenterologist), they had two daughters and a son—he also discovered a new passion. The hockey enthusiasts among his new colleagues had hoped a Canadian might catch up their game. While Martin had never played, he was health and competitive. Soon, hockey was his ritual. He took to hockey, body and soul. He took his children—family joined he'd soon employ floodlights and Zambonis—and delivered his girls to hockey practice each Saturday. Professionally, Martin's mentors believed he was on the cusp of a superlative career. He began stepping across the career milestone on runs for donor organs, delivering hearts and lungs to Ann Arbor transplant patients. It was a lot to manage. "I honestly don't think he slept during the last two years," says Peter Matus, a University of Michigan internist. Once, when he failed to keep a study date, Matus called his home. Martin had fallen asleep in bed, one of his children in his arms.

Early on Monday, June 4, Martin received word that a set of lungs had become available near Milwaukee, Wis. He and a transplant team boarded an eight-seat, twin-engine Cessna 560 Citation, and landed in Milwaukee 45 minutes later. As Martin hovered the lungs, surgeons in Ann Arbor prepped the patient, a 50-year-old man whose tobacco habit had damaged his lungs. Within five minutes of taking off for the return journey, at 4:45 p.m., one of the Cessna's two pilots noticed that the plane was in trouble. Then the Cessna dove into Lake Michigan. There were no survivors. "Through word of the crash forced the surgeons in Ann Arbor to suspend the operation, the 50-year-old worried man lungs two days later. He will likely return home again in a few weeks."

BY NICHOLAS ROHLER



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